



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 1

Bulletin Edition

Jan. 8, 2010

Cabiao Gawad Kalinga kids' wish - a Jollibee treat - fulfilled

By Patricia Esteves (The Philippine Star) Updated Dec. 29, 2009 12:00 am

MANILA, Philippines - All they ever wanted in their young lives was to eat at Jollibee but poverty had hindered them. Yesterday, their dream finally came true. The poor children of Cabiao Gawad Kalinga (GK) Villages in Nueva Ecija here got their wish, thanks to the generosity of the Mark 10 Ministry of Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD) Newark who sent their love all the way from New Jersey, USA. BLD, which means "open in spirit to God," is a Catholic organization founded in Manila. Yesterday, Mark 10 ministry of BLD Newark spread some love and cheer and treated the Sibol children of Cabiao GK Villages of Fr. Paul Lehman and UST Medicine Class '76, to a day of fun and excitement here.

The current and former Mark 10 children gave away the \$500 they had saved in the past years to their fellow children in Cabiao GK Villages. The original intent was to spend this money on their educational needs but realizing that many of the Sibol children had been dreaming of a Jollibee treat, the Mark 10 children, through their coordinators Reuben and Cherry Vibar, decided instead to grant their wish. "At first, we were thinking of using the money for their studies, books and other educational tools. However, we believe that the children wanted to have fun in celebration of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Mark 10 children in Newark also wanted to have parties and fun so we could not say no to their Filipino counterparts. We said yes and agreed to the plan," Reuben and Cherry said. So, off went the 40 Sibol children, aged four to six, to a Jollibee branch in Gapan wearing their Mark 10 T-shirts.

They first visited the Gapan Catholic Church and government facilities before they enjoyed the highlight of their trip, a Jollibee Christmas party. The children partook of Chicken Joy, spaghetti and pop soda, enjoyed games with prizes, and had the chance to play with the Jollibee mascot.

A week earlier, UST Medicine Class '76 gave 100 families from the same GK Villages their Christmas gift packs consisting of 10 kilos of rice, corned beef, coffee, chocolate drink, sugar, hotdogs, and noodles.

The classmates, upon hearing about the Jollibee treat, contributed a matching gift of \$500 to the Sibol educational fund for the children. Indeed, it has been a profound Christmas for both the Mark 10 children of Newark and the kids of Cabiao GK Villages as they embody the true meaning of Christmas – giving in a season of grace and love.

COUNSELS

Baptism Of The Lord

WORD: Isaiah 42:1- 4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

THEME: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who fear the Lord and act uprightly.

ORDER: God's love is glorified in the sonship of Jesus.

REFLECTION:

Throughout the ages, we have celebrated Christmas as a season, with the twelve days between Christmas and the Epiphany as one long holy "day." Actually, the season ends today as we celebrate the Lord's baptism and marks the close of the liturgical season of Christmas, and signals the start of the first period of ordinary time.

But what is this moment, all about - Jesus being baptized by John in the River Jordan? By the banks of the river we see Him standing in line, awaiting his turn, along with the crowds of sinners turning to God through the pathway of repentance. The water of the River Jordan that day was filled with all kinds of sin, all kinds of people who came to repent. And there, the sinless One humbly submits Himself to this rite. The Lord was setting an example of humility for us to follow.

It was at the time of His baptism by John that Jesus received the call from God to begin His ministry of salvation, declaring Him as His Son, prophet and king of His people. Jesus' public ministry begins with the act of compassion and solidarity with humankind. He starts His life as a traveling preacher by identifying with us, taking upon His shoulders the tremendous burden and responsibility for our sins. The occasion is symbolic of what His work on earth is all about. God the Father attests to the divinity of the Son at the moment of His baptism and, by this means, Jesus "**manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him.**" (John 2:11) It was such an important moment, the Spirit of God took possession of Him in a very special way and the heavens rang out with approval. "**This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased**", Luke 3:22. In Isaiah 42:1 and Acts 10: 38, we are told: "**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, that he might be revealed to Israel**" as its Messiah.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Here is my servant whom I uphold...he shall bring forth justice to the nations." (Isaiah 42:1)

Can You Hear Me Now?

As I contemplate my walk with the Lord, I recall the most unforgettable experience that changed my spiritual life. In December 1995, my spouse and I went to Germany to attend our niece's wedding. Our vacation was short and while we were in the plane ready to head back home, I felt heaviness in my chest and shortness of breath. The plane staff moved quickly to get us out of the plane, and the airport medics transported me to the airport clinic. It was then confirmed that I was having a heart attack.

I was very scared because I have a long family history of Coronary Artery Diseases. My mother had open heart surgery and my father had died of a stroke at the age of 55; but never did I feel vulnerable until that moment. I thought surely I was going to die.

LORD, can You hear me now?

I pleaded to the Lord for a second chance in life. "I know Lord, that you gave me life and You can take it anytime. I want to see my children grow up and let them, specially my spouse, feel the warmth of my love, the love that I have often failed to give them."

"LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock of refuge, my shield, my saving horn, my stronghold!" (Ps 18:3)

My spouse was with me all the time, holding my hand and constantly, tearfully praying the rosary in the ICU. After a few days, I was transferred to Frankfurt University Hospital where I underwent cardiac catheterization with angioplasty and stenting. It was a success and I am so thankful to the Lord for sparing my life. I believed that the Lord saved me for a reason, which is to serve His people and that He is also calling me to a deeper relationship with Him.

"Thereupon the LORD heard my voice, he listened to my appeal; He saved me from evil of every kind and preserved me in time of trouble. For this reason, I thank him and I praise him; I bless the name of the LORD." (Sir 51:11b-12)

In 2002, we answered His call to join the BLD Community. My prayer life has changed since then. I was slowly pruned away from the worldly values and beliefs that separated me from Jesus, as we are asked to intercede for our brothers and sisters in need of healing and comfort through our ministry.

I have a strong conviction that it is in our trials that we experience most clearly that our strength does not come from ourselves but from God who will never abandon us and who loves us without measure. He is our help and deliverer. Lord, it is in our weakness that we find Your strength and power – on our own we are helpless. Amen.

To God Be The Glory

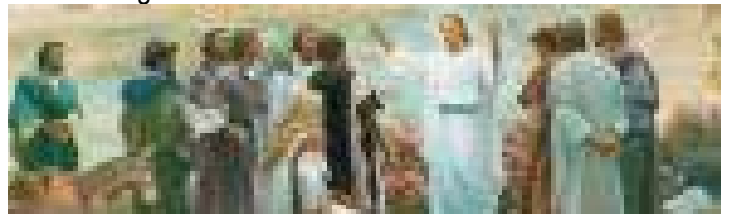
How the Lord Found Me

The highest peak of my life was when I met the man whom I shared my life with, my husband Tony. However, after being married for 13 years, I felt unloved and abandoned by my husband, which led to a bitter divorce. I prayed to the Lord, my constant confidant, for strength and help to make it through. I prayed that my husband would not take my 3 sons away from me. I feared that he would do everything to make my children forget me.

It was through these trials, I later realized, that the Lord was calling me; but at that time, the Lord's presence was very hard for me to discern. I cried when my youngest son told me, "I never want to spend any more time with you. I want to be with my dad." My second son said, "You never did anything for us." Even harder was my oldest son telling me that I made their lives miserable. Heartbroken, I had to make a decision to swallow my pride and contain my emotions. I told them, "This will be ok. I wish you three the best in life, but I want you to understand and remember that I will always be your mother and you will always be my sons. If one day any one of you should find it in your heart to acknowledge me as your mother and love me again...you know where to find me. I will wait for that moment to come, to embrace you with open arms and love you as if none of these ever happened."

Through a friend of mine, I joined a Bible study group. Here I met someone, who became my good friend. That person took me to a 2000 *Hail Marys* gathering. Once again the Lord was guiding me. Here, to my surprise, I met my high school best friend. Both of them convinced me to attend the Solo Parents' Encounter. During the Encounter, I felt that the Lord's presence very strongly within me. I became hungry and thirsty for Him. I spoke to Him and cried to Him about my struggles. On top of losing my sons, I lost my job, and had to endure all the trials that entailed.

Now, I feel His presence within me and know that He will never abandon me. He is the Almighty and the bright morning star that will lead me through my darkest hour. He is my strength, my shield and my protector. With His mercy and grace, I know He will see me through all my struggles. Even though I fall, He will raise me above this storm like an eagle. He is worthy, my Lord and Savior, and I am His prodigal daughter that am now reconciled with His Father. My faith is the eyes that sees my being with Him in glory and now is the start of my journey on the path to His Kingdom.



COUNSEL (from page 1)

The baptism of the Lord is a great feast; here the Holy Trinity is manifested for the first time. The Father speaks from heaven, the Son is present, and the Holy Spirit descends. Today's feast reminds us of our own baptism and presents us with an opportunity to reflect on the implications of leading the life of a Christian. It's a time of special importance because it marks our spiritual birth - the beginning of the Lord reaching down, touching our lives, claiming us for His own and adopting us as His children. Because we were still infants, our parents and godparents spoke on our behalf when they introduced us into God's family, but as adults we have to ratify and act out, and personalize that religious decision. Through baptism we are freed from the debt of original sin which we inherited from our first parents, thus restoring and reconciling us with God who loves us.

Our baptism is as awe-inspiring phenomenon, as was Jesus'. Through baptism we become branches of Jesus who is the vine. Through baptism we achieve death to original sin and life in God. Through baptism we become members of the body of Christ, the People of God. Through baptism we are adopted as children of God, with the Spirit dwelling within us. Through baptism we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Christ.

In the Church precisely through the baptism we are called to holiness, each one in his own state of life and condition, and to exercise our apostolate. As members of the Church we are intimately connected through the sacramental character of baptism, which imprints sure and indelible spiritual sign on our souls. It is like Christ's seal of possession on the soul of the baptized, for Christ takes possession of our souls at the moment of baptism. This is the reason the Church desires that children should receive these gifts of God early.

To strengthen our mission through baptism, Jesus Christ presents Himself to us most perfectly and fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, for He truly speaks to us when the Scriptures are proclaimed in the assembly, and during Communion at Mass we truly receive Him in His fullness - body, blood, soul and divinity. By this God-given means, the grace received during our baptism grows ever stronger, becoming for us, "a fountain within us, welling up to eternal life."

By our own baptism, heaven opened for us, the Holy Spirit descended upon us, and we were commissioned to do God's work. Thus, the mission to be the representatives of Christ in this world remains with us throughout our lifetime. We must be open to the Holy Spirit and remain faithful to our calling. Being faithful to our mission call is to be righteous before the Lord. If we honor and love God, He will remain in us and allow the fruits of His Spirit to manifest in our lives.

Almighty God, thank you for this totally undeserved gift. We rejoice in the countless good things you have lavished upon us. Keep us in your love and help us to keep the promises made on our name at baptism. May you be pleased with us on account of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FATHER LEHMAN SPEAKS

The beginning of the New Year is celebrated in the midst of the Christmas festivities. The tension between the secular and the sacred that is always present in our lives, seems to be most obvious during this season. The difference between the Christian approach to the holydays seems to conflict with the secular celebration of the holidays. Sometimes we Christians take a negative approach to this holiday dimension. There is no question that many in our society want to banish any thing spiritual from the public arena, such as opposition to manger scenes. In reality, however, the Incarnation itself was an embrace of the earthy and the secular. God approaches us through the visible. Thus the proper use of food, drink and even sex can be the very means God has given us to reach Him.

Having said this, there is the constant ambivalence in the use of physical and material things. After all original sin has wounded us and we tend to use everything in a selfish manner. That is one of the reasons why we need Jesus and his redemptive work. We need him not only to be saved from our sins, but also to be able to be freed from the dominance of self-centeredness, and be made able to use the material things of life in a reasonable manner.

The ultimate purpose of matter is to bring us to the invisible and the transcendent. To use the visible merely for the pleasure it brings (which is an inherent tendency) is to make an icon or a god of the external. Christmas and the Incarnation it celebrates, encourage us to move to the invisible. Jesus, the visible sign of the invisible God, came to bring us to the Father. .

There is also a lesson to be learned here for prayer. As we grow in prayer we move from the external use of words and thoughts and meditation, into a kind of emptiness. On the surface it seems we have lost something. In reality we have moved beyond the experiential and physical into the invisible and contemplative. As long as we can pray with our words and thoughts, and feel the presence of God, we are encouraged to continue with that form of prayer. But when we sense an emptiness and an inability to focus on words or thoughts in our prayer time, it may be an invitation to move into a more silent form of prayer, and enjoy the dark joy of contemplation. We have moved from the tangible to the intangible love of the Father himself. May this New Year bring all of us into this deeper experience of God, "Creator of the visible and the invisible."

DIRECTIONS

1. Increase awareness and understanding of the evil of abortion by supporting March for Life and Life Issues Seminar.
2. Show no partiality in our relationship with one another.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish

St. Mary's School, Room 104, Every Friday from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word.
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)

Bring your old or unused school supplies to St. Mary's
Church (Fellowship area) • Contact: Ruben & Luz
Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children
are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please
note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8 p.m. and pick-up
must be no later than 10:45 p.m.** After 10:45 p.m., parents will
be responsible for their children's safety.

*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Jan 9-Praise Ministry • Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay Street, Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Jan 23-Service Ministry**

Contacts: Rudy/ Rita Santos 732.642.7272

rodolfoasantos_911@hotmail.com • Ray/Tess Salmo

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon

Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place
every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the
Community through an article (450 words)

Email to wordeditors@bldnewark.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Jan. 9, 2010, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples
Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are
highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or
any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to
secretariat for valid excuses.

MARCH FOR LIFE RALLY

Jan. 22, 2010, Washington D.C. • Contacts: Frank & Malou
Venadas 973-562-0055 or Cezar & Pinky Calingo 973-430-
7556 • 908-230-3660 • cezar02459@yahoo.com

WITNESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Jan. 23, 2010 • St. Mary's @ 1pm • By invitation only

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Mar. 5-7, 2010 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubugan)

Mar 5, 2010 • St Mary's Church

YLSS No. 15

Mar 5-7, 2010 • St Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, yca@bldnewark.com

Youths aged 15-19 • Application available @ www.bldnewark.com

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 13, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 14, Sun., 7am-7am

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7am

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

April 9-11, 2010 • St Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan 08	Teaching - Intercessory Class
Jan 15	Teaching - Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles
Jan 22	Teaching - Intercessory & Service Classes, Solo Parents & Golden Years
Feb 19	Teaching - Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles
Feb 26	Teaching - Intercessory & Service Classes, Solo Parents & Golden Years

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING DEC. 18, 2009

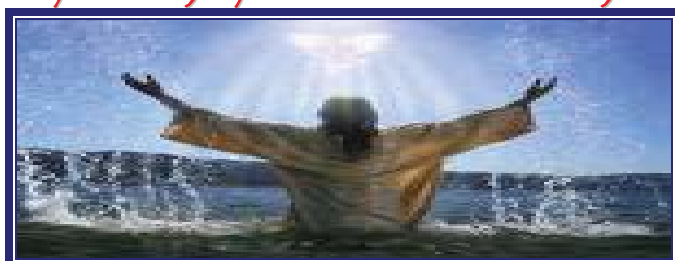
	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,320	191,850
Expenses	2,599	210,881
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,721	(19,031)
Ondoy Disaster Fund		18,175
Dinner Dance Net Proceeds		12,944

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

Thank you for your continued support!

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are
celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week

*Make the Covenant News
a part of your covenant life!*



"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

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Volume 16 Issue 2

Bulletin Edition

January 15, 2010

Disciples addressed BLD's Vision

On Saturday, January 9th the community held its first Disciples' Assembly of 2010. A large number of committed and covenanted disciples, representing every segment of the community, braved the cold weather to fill the auditorium of St. Mary's School. The assembly began with an inspiring praise and worship.

Although the lack of heat in the building caused most people to keep their coats and scarves on all afternoon, everyone seemed eager to address the main subject of the meeting: The BLD Community Vision. In order to give everyone a chance to be heard, the attending disciples formed small discussion groups. Afterward, a spokesperson for each group presented a summary of ideas and suggestions to the full assembly. Many disciples expressed gratitude for the blessings they have experienced because of their involvement in BLD while offering ideas for enriching many areas of community life including personal growth, spirituality, service and outreach.

The next step is for the DCS to prepare a summary for submission to our Community Spiritual Director, Archbishop

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Sealed and Signed with the Lord

'Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us.' (1 John 4: 15-19)

The following sealed their covenant with the Lord to be full covenanted disciples : from Rockland - Rollie & Emma Aquino and from Newark - Rosemarie Ausan, Boi & Tess Booc, Cezar & Pinky Calingo, Carlota Casals, Abi Castaned, Vino & Beth Guiang, Boboy & Marissa Guzman, Nelson & Virgie Mayo, Ernst & Nellie Sun, Rey & Nerrie Tuason and Gene & Bing Ymbong.

COUNSELS

Fruitfulness in the Lord

WORD: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

THEME: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who nurture and exercise their spiritual gifts.

ORDER: "Do whatever He tells you." (Jn 2: 5)

REFLECTION:

The first public miracle of Jesus was performed during a wedding. It is interesting that this miracle is not about healing, not about forgiveness, not about raising of the dead, or about driving away of evil spirits. This is about joy, happiness, and blessings, reinforcing the importance that Jesus gave to the Sacrament of Marriage, turning water into wine, even when His "hour" had not come. This miracle is also a timely reminder for our community about the importance of the family, the small church, and our respect for life.

The Gospel of John relates that by means of this sign Jesus "manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11). It is also interesting to note that in this wedding feast, Jesus performed the miracle through the participation of ordinary people like us: the obedient servers who followed His words and filled the jar with water to the brim, the headwaiter who performs his duties well and tasted the water that turned into wine, and the wedding guests. Just as Jesus desired to use the water pots, the earthen vessels, He desires to work in ordinary people like us and through a community like BLD. Many of us may feel too small and unprepared, many may say that the Lord could never use someone like us. The enemy may cause us to focus more on our flaws and shortcomings, rather than on God's unconditional love. However, Jesus has wonderful plans for faithful and obedient people. Like the water pots, by His grace, our Lord has

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GOD'S PROMISE FOR THE WEEK

"You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God." (Is 62:3)

Yearning for Jesus

Imagine yourself 2000 years ago, living in a small town in Galilee. You hear of a man who heals the sick and works miracles. Your child has been sick for weeks and there has been nothing that has helped her get better. You fear the worst. After speaking to your spouse, you decide to make the day-long trip to find the man who may be the last hope to healing, not only your child, but you as well. You don't have much, but you leave everything you have to answer the question, "Who is this man, Jesus?"

Many of us continue to walk on that journey to find Jesus. While people who lived in the time of Jesus only had to make trips that took days at a time to find Him, today, it can take months, years, or even a lifetime to find Jesus in our lives. While the journey now is mostly a spiritual journey, we still find many people making pilgrimages to be with Jesus. In fact, for many people, merely going to church on Sunday constitutes a pilgrimage!

I recall a couple of years ago, the BLD community and St. Mary's Parish were blessed with a visit from Father Suarez, who is world-renowned for being able to heal people. The streets surrounding St. Mary's were packed to the point where the local police department needed to direct traffic around the area. People were walking many blocks from where they parked and waited hours just to see a man who can heal them of their ailments. I wondered, "Is this how it was like in the time of Jesus?"

In the scripture, we see the yearning people had for Jesus. Wherever He went, He was followed by large crowds. What we don't realize is that Jesus had that same yearning for us. His ministry did not consist of staying in one place and waiting for people to come to Him. He *sought* us and He traveled to all of Galilee to share with us of God's love and His Kingdom that awaits us. He came to save.

Let us be reminded that healing does not come from a person. Healing does not come from some special powers. Jesus, himself, tells us that it is "your faith that heals you". Brothers and sisters, seek Jesus as He has sought out for us. While Jesus, the man, is no longer here on earth, He is still present in our midst. His physical presence is seen in the Holy Eucharist. When we spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, we spend time with Him. When we receive the Eucharist in mass, we receive Him. It is in our faith that Jesus is present in that Holy Eucharist that we find Him in our lives.

Disciples... (cont. from page 1)

Lagdameo, who will then return with his own reflections and recommendations.

Two presentations followed which were both beautiful and inspirational. The first was on Gawad Kalinga and showed how various BLD districts as well as many individual members are

No Partiality with God

St. Thomas Aquinas in his famous Summa Theologica studied and discussed the many ways and attributes of our infinitely perfect God. One among these many perfect attributes is the impartiality of God in caring for our neighbors whether they be our friends or enemies. St. Thomas, quoted Matt. 5:43-48 which states "*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"

This impartiality doctrine is further taught to us by our Lord Jesus in Mark 2:15: "*While he was at the table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples;*" Here Mark tells us that God through the teaching of Jesus, that He takes care of all creatures. And above all, God takes care of all men who are created in His image and likeness. What is more remarkable, our Lord Jesus, to illustrate His idea of a perfect love, not only sat among the sinners but provided more ample time with them, His enemies, than those who are His friends.

According to St. Thomas, "Holy Scripture never orders and never counsels to do the impossible. By His words in the Holy Scripture, then, the Lord Jesus does not command us to accomplish the very works and ways of God, which no one can attain in perfection. But He invites us to model ourselves on them, as much as is possible by applying ourselves to imitate them."

Let us therefore exercise impartiality in loving and caring for all our neighbors, taking to our hearts their joys and grief, seeking to restrain them from wrong doing and to comfort them in the Lord by our good example. Above all, let us take tender care of God Himself, doing everywhere and always that which He most desires us to do and that for which He has particularly destined us. We can do this with the help of grace and we should do so. And as St. Thomas said "nothing is more suitable to man than to imitate his Creator, and to carry out, to the degree that he is able, the holy will of God."

making a huge difference in the lives of poor families through their generosity and personal service to GK. The second presentation consisted of a very touching pro-life film entitled "The Miracle of Life" along with a reminder of the up-coming March For Life Rally on January 22, 2010. The program ended with words of encouragement from several DCS members.

What Then Should We Do?

Today is the midpoint of the Advent season, the 3rd Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday. When the mass was celebrated in Latin the 1st word (Entrance Antiphon) that is uttered is Gaudete which means "Rejoice." The principal theme is joy. There is cause for joy as we anticipate the 1st coming of Christ (Incarnation). The Readings and the Psalm exhort us to rejoice all the more as they reassure us that God is already in our midst (Emmanuel-God is with us).

The prophet Zephaniah encourages us to "*shout for joy, sing joyfully, be glad and exult for God is in our midst not to judge but to save and renew*" (Zep 3:14). The responsorial Psalm echoes the same message thus: "Cry out with joy and gladness for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians went overboard. He used not only the word "rejoice twice" but used the adverb "always," for the Lord is near. St. Paul being in prison at that time showed us that we can rejoice even in our trials, suffering and persecutions. Since worry and anxiety are joy-killers, St Paul encourages us to request the Lord with prayer, petition and thanksgiving to help us to get a handle on our worries and anxieties so that His peace will be with us.

The Gospel reading presents us with a different although not unrelated theme. The first half of today's Gospel message from Luke 3:10-14 is very appropriate for our BLD community. Note that John the Baptist was preaching to various classes of people: the average Joe or the general crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers. He proclaimed the coming of the Messiah. All who wanted to carefully prepare for this event asked him in one voice, "What then should we do?" His answer to everyone was to practice social justice. To the average Joe, John did not ask to give away everything (a superhuman virtue) as Jesus did with young rich man. All he asked was to share what we have, to have compassion, active love and social awareness for those who don't have. Do the BLD Newark's Isaiah 58, nursing home visits, soup kitchen, medical mission and Gawad Kalinga ministries ring a bell? We also can share our time listening with empathy to those who are hurting, grieving or lonesome or share our gifts and talents with a newcomer or beginner or to accomplish a community mission. We could go on and on. Although, most of us are not tax collectors, most of us have experienced the "padulas" small bribes. We give a certain percentage of the future income of the enterprise to facilitate the issuance of government permit. The Baptist is exhorting us to be honest in our dealings with our fellow men. Most of us also have experienced dealing with people in authority represented by soldiers. Some of us felt abused and intimidated

chosen to use breakable and imperfect people to manifest His mighty power. When this happens, there is no doubt whatsoever that the source behind our miracle is God and not us. God wants to do a miracle through us. He prefers the humble-earthen vessels, as St. Paul states in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*"

The miracle of Cana reminds our community to release the power of God and the gifts that we received from the Holy Spirit : faith, healing, miraculous deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretations of tongues. Our Lord prefers to take the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. Let us therefore be empowered once more by the Holy Spirit in recommitting ourselves to the Great Commission of Jesus in Mark 16:15-18, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them: they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*"

For this New Year, let us together remain to be fruitful as a community. Let us continue to fill our earthen vessels with the Holy Spirit, up to the brim, and ask the Lord to turn our "water into wine".

DIRECTIONS:

1. Identify, unify and release our gifts, through the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory (Sienna), for the sake of the gospel.
2. Invigorate our life in the Spirit by using and nurturing our God-given gifts.

sometimes extorted for money or favors. The Baptist urges those in authority not to flaunt it but treat those under them with respect and consideration.

John the Baptist is guiding us as we prepare the way of the Lord this Advent season. His advice is within our reach. Possessions, money and power, the three main stumbling blocks on our way to the Lord, must be used to promote the common good of humanity. The gifts of the Holy Spirit which we received at Baptism will help us with our conversion and transformation.

During this Advent season, let us continue to reflect on "Being ready for the coming of the Lord, this Christmas, at this Eucharist and at his final coming end of time or at end of our life whichever comes first. May each of us do what is necessary for our salvation so that when we come face to face with Lord it will be a joyful one!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish
St. Mary's School, Room 104, Every Friday from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word.
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused school supplies to St. Mary's
Church (Fellowship area) • Contact: Ruben & Luz
Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children
are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children.
Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8 p.m. and
pick-up must be no later than 10:45 p.m.** After 10:45 p.m.,
parents will be responsible for their children's safety.
*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay Street, Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Jan 23-Service Ministry**
Contacts: Rudy/ Rita Santos 732.642.7272
rodolfosantos_911@hotmail.com • Ray/Tess Salmo

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place
every 4th Friday at the Auditorium.

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with
the Community through an article (450 words).
Email to word@bldnewark.com

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are
celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH FOR LIFE RALLY

Jan. 22, 2010, Washington D.C. • Contacts: Frank &
Malou Venadas 973-562-0055 or Cezar & Pinky Calingo
973-430-7556 • 908-230-3660 • cezar02459@yahoo.com

WITNESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Jan. 23, 2010 • St. Mary's @ 1pm • By invitation only

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Mar. 5-7, 2010 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

Catholic Men's Conference Champions of Faith

Mar.13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall University, S. Orange, NJ
Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith
and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubugan)

Mar. 5 • St Mary's • Lambs introduction to Shepherds

YLSS No. 15

Mar 5-7, 2010 • St Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ
Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, yca@bldnewark.com
Youths aged 15-19 • Application available @ www.bldnewark.com

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 13, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • **Mar. 14, Sun., 7am-7am**
Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret
Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • **Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7am**
Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret
Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17- 18** (LSS Proper)

St Mary's • Contact: isa@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan 15	Teaching - Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles
Jan 22	Teaching - Intercessory & Service Classes, Solo Parents & Golden Years
Feb 19	Teaching - Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles
Feb 26	Teaching - Intercessory & Service Classes, Solo Parents & Golden Years

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JAN. 8, 2009

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,823	4,823
Expenses	9,532	9,532
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,709)	(4,709)
Ondoy Disaster Fund		100

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

Thank you for your continued support!



*Make the Covenant News
a part of your covenant life.*



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

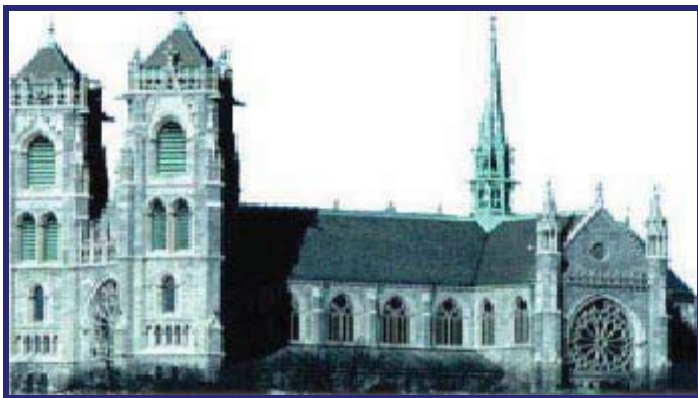
Volume 16 Issue 3

Bulletin Edition

January 22, 2010

NEWS

Pro-Life Mass at the Sacred Heart Basilica



The freezing rain that drenched the New Jersey area on Sunday, January 17, 2010 did not keep God's faithful disciples from attending the Pro-life Mass at the beautiful Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica in Newark, NJ. BLD-Newark, led by the coordinators of the Parish Services Ministry, was represented among the several Pro Life supporters who filled the basilica with their fervent songs and prayers for the success of the upcoming Pro-life March in Washington, D.C. on January 22, 2010. It also marked the beginning of the Church's celebration of Human Life Week. The mass was led by his eminence, the Most-Reverend Peter Leo Gerety. Father Joseph Meagher delivered a most thought-provoking and eloquent homily, exhorting the audience, "Do not be afraid."

The Pro-Life Eucharistic celebration was followed by a procession to St. Lucy's Church, a few short blocks from the Basilica, which culminated in an "Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life", led by Fr. Meagher. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was prayed and sung followed by the Holy Rosary in five different languages. What a blessing to be part of this most sacred hour with the Lord!

Make Covenant News A Part Of Your Covenant Life.

COUNSELS

LIVING THE WORD

WORD: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

THEME: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who bring glad tidings to the poor.

ORDER: ***"Allot portions to those who had nothing prepared."*** (Neh. 8:10)

REFLECTION:

The scriptures for this week provide insights into what it means to be living examples of God's word from the life of Israel, the life of Jesus, and the life of the early Christian community. In them we discover that following Christ is all about "living the word".

When the Israelites returned from exile, in the first reading, not only had the cities to be rebuilt and the land restored, but also the people had to be rededicated to God and his Word. Ezra, the priest/scribe, was entrusted with the spiritual renewal and rededication of his people. The rededication ceremony is concluded with a feast. Perhaps their weeping convinced Ezra to "take it easy on them." He and Nehemiah then encouraged the people to celebrate their observance of the law. ***"Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength."*** (Neh 8:10)

In the second reading, the Corinthian community was plagued by factions of varying kinds. Here, Paul is preaching unity. Since human beings have a desire to belong to another person, to a community, or to God, we can imagine how the Christians at Corinth welcomed Paul's letter assuring them that they were all "one body." They were not to create divisions among themselves by identifying as Jews or Greeks, slaves or free people, women or men. Because they had all been anointed by the Holy Spirit, they had become together the one body of Christ. Each was a member; no one was left out. ***"You are Christ's body and individually parts of it."*** (1 Cor 12:27)

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength." (Neh 8:10)

But How Am I Disobedient?

Here's a testy exchange from 1 Samuel 15:16-20.

The prophet **Samuel**: "*Stop! Listen to what the Lord said.*"

Saul, the king: "*Speak!*"

Samuel: "*The Lord anointed you and sent you on a mission. But you disobeyed, displeasing Him.*"

Saul: "*I did indeed obey...*" And he went on to excuse and justify himself.

A modern follower of Jesus also tends to make this mistake, which carried a steep price. In the end, the prophet said to the king, "*Because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he, too, has rejected you.*" (Samuel 15:23) Like Samuel, we may not even realize wherein we are being disobedient to the command of the Lord.

It may be tempting for a BLD disciple to commend and feel good about himself - Friday worship, love offerings, teachings, retreats and class reunions. These all involve the giving up of something, the sacrifice of time and treasure. These really are good things and actions, and who may be faulted for them?

After Saul recited his good deeds, the prophet said to him, "*Does the Lord so delight in your offerings and sacrifices as in obedience to His command? Obedience is better than sacrifice.*" (Samuel 15:22)

So, again we may wonder, how am I being disobedient? Our sacrifices are good, but we may still be in love with the world and indulge the flesh; carry on an unkind, selfish spirit and neglect the real demands of discipleship. The lover of Christ needs to listen to His voice, and learn to obey it. We may have been indoctrinated to the ways of the world over the long years before our renewal in the Life of the Spirit. Deeply buried beyond our protestations of spiritual growth may still lurk Pride and the other capital sins. When we excuse our faults, or do good deeds while seeking to gain human favor, the virtues of sincerity and humility will not be around to help us follow God's will and obey His commands.

What merit is there that we render service but only in a ministry that is to our liking? We may "enjoy" coming to Friday worship because friends and classmates are around, and lose our focus on our One Great Friend who nourishes us in the Word and the Spirit's unifying Presence. Only by God's grace can we remain in postulant attitude before Him, eschewing the thought that we favor Him with our "goodness" and obligate Him to do us good in return.

Prideful sacrifice does not incline us to become truly repentant and obedient, but is an easy way out to continue in old, sinful ways. It only glorifies God on the outside, but He sees through it all.

The Sabbath Was Made For Man

"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)

Jesus points out that genuine human need takes precedence over the rules governing human life and conduct. He is telling us that love (charity) precedes rules and regulations. David and his men broke the rules in order to satisfy their hunger; the very real needs of people are more important than rules. The purpose of the Sabbath (rest) was to imitate God, who after six days of creating took time out for a break. As Jesus states it, the Sabbath was made for the people. It is God's gift to them. We must make use of this gift because it is for our good. Our tired body needs rest and a time to give honor, glory and praise to God.

To turn it around and say that people were made for the Sabbath is to get it backward. People are not made to fit rules; rules are made to fit the needs of people. When rules no longer serve their purpose, then they are to be change, abolished or ignored. This is the main reason why our church continually makes changes on disciplinary rules. She is always looking for the needs of the body, the Church.

So often people cling to the rules because rules offer safety, security, and protection from change. However, such an enclosure does not necessarily serve their needs. When someone is hungry, no rule concerning the proper time for meal is appropriate as demonstrated by David and Jesus. Jesus is not saying that we must forget the rules. If the needs of the people are no longer an issue, then we must go back to rules. Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

Likewise, when someone is sick, no rule concerning the usual office hours of a doctor applies. When someone has been in an accident and is being rushed to the hospital, the rule about stopping at every red light no longer applies in deference to the suffering person. Common sense and prudent judgment, rather, must prevail.

In our BLD community, we have rules and regulation that we must abide. They are good because it is for our safety, security and protection from change. But how often do we push aside the needs of our members for the sake of following these rules? Do you place rules above people or people above rules? What is your response?

*To God
be all the Glory*

Ministry Matters

A Word from WORD

Before becoming a member of the Word Ministry, I used to think that this ministry was only for those who have a gift for writing. How wrong I was!

Simply put, the Word Ministry is a ministry of God's defenders of the Word. If you want to be soaked in His Word, come and serve Him in the Word Ministry. This is the one qualification for the ministry: you must have a thirst and passion for the Word of God. As a member and disciple of this community, isn't this our common goal and aspiration anyway?

How does the ministry work, you say? We meet one Saturday every other month to plan the articles and discern the scriptural verse(s) that would become the foundation of the featured articles in each issue. In this meeting, nicknamed "Grid Planning", we also pray for and discern the writers for each article. The ministry coordinators are tasked to invite these writers through written and face-to-face invitations. The ministry core take turns being an editor, publisher, and managing editor. We have a few volunteers in the ministry. We can always use more.

The Word Ministry plans for the Covenant News issues months ahead of time. For example, our upcoming Feb. 6, 2010 meeting will be tackling the titles, foundational scriptural verses, and writers for the Covenant News's May & June 2010 issues.

This past few months, the ministry has undergone some process changes, brought on by the building of an online repository. The repository is a virtual library of all the unedited and edited articles, along with some other documents that may be useful to the ministry members such as contact info, and archived articles. The ministry held its first workshop on the use of various computer tools and how-to navigate through this new repository on Jan. 15, 2010. One-to-one tutorials are also offered. If you are interested in finding out more, please send an email to word@bldnewark.com or just stop any of the Word Ministry core members. They are the ones who lovingly distribute the Covenant News every Friday.

"Proclaim the Word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry."

(2 Tim 4:2-5)



COUNSEL (from page 1)

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus is visiting His home synagogue in Nazareth, it's a Sabbath morning, and the scroll of Isaiah is handed to him. Jesus unrolls it carefully, reverently, until he finds exactly the place he has in mind. As was the custom, he then stands up to read the text:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Lk 4:18-19).

Then he rolls up the scroll, hands it back to the attendant and sits down to instruct, as teachers did. His commentary that day was dramatically brief: ***"Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing,"*** (Lk 4:21) he says, as a hush falls over the crowd and everyone gazes at him in amazement.

A new era begins. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, He brings this salvation about in His person. The verse from Isaiah sums up His entire life and death. Jesus not only preaches God's unconditional love for everyone, but his life personifies and demonstrates it. The blind are literally given sight, those held captive by illness, sin, and death are, in fact, delivered. In the three short years of his earthly ministry, the year of God's favor, the traditional Jewish jubilee year, does indeed arrive once and for all.

In conclusion, if "we were all baptized into...Christ's body" by the same Spirit that anointed Christ, then we must share in his mission as well. We must function as the members of Christ that we are—Christ's hands, eyes, ears, and feet. It is for us to bring glad tidings, liberty, sight, and freedom to all who are oppressed. So let us do our part to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. As a community, let us be charitable to the least of our brethren especially in our own native land. ***"Allot portions to those who had nothing prepared."*** (Neh. 8:10) There are many opportunities for us to do just that. If we choose to help those in the Philippines, we can support our Scholarship for the Poor program, our own Philippine Medical Mission this coming February, the Gawad Kalinga and the Sagip Ka Eskuela program (save a school child) sponsored by Isaiah 58. Over here in our area, we have the Soup Kitchen, Nursing Home visitation, rebuilding of St. Mary's parish, and the parish assisted evangelization. Let us also extend our generosity to those suffering in Haiti. Whichever we support can be holy and acceptable to the Lord if we listen to and act on God's word. Then, we will truly be able to say that we are "living the Word."

DIRECTIONS

1. Support our Scholarship for the Poor program.
2. Support our Philippine medical mission on Feb. 22-25, 2010.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish
St. Mary's School, Rm 104, Fridays from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word.
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
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ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)
Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213
Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

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and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm After 10:45
pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.
*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. • Ray/Tess Salmo
Jan 23-Service Ministry • Contacts: Rudy/ Rita
Santos 732.642.7272 rodolfofosantos_911@hotmail.com

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

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place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

WORD

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with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon
those who are celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE
Mar. 5-7 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

DLC MEETING

Mar. 13 @ 1-5pm • St. Mary's

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

Mar.13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall, South Orange, NJ
Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's
faith and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubugan)

Mar. 5 • St Mary's • Lambs introduction to Shepherds

YLSS No. 15

Mar 5-7, 2010 • St Mary's, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, yca@bldnewark.com
Youths aged 15-19 • Applications @ www.bldnewark.com

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Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

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Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • **Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7am**

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)

St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan 22	CDFP Overview/Intro to the Word – ME 34 Encounter with Jesus – SPE 10 Teaching – Intercessory, Golden Years & Youth
Jan 29	Intro To Commitment – LSS 31-32 Four Basic Truths – ME 34
Feb 6*	Basic Bible Seminar – LSS 33 Christian Parenting I – ME 34 Paulinian Letters – Covenanted Disciples
Feb 12	Four Basic Truths – ME 34 Teaching - Youth
Feb 19	Teaching – Mark 10, John 6 & Service Christian Maturity II - Singles
Feb 20*	Christian Maturity II – ME 34 Gifts & Fruit of the HS – LSS 31-32 Shepherds Training - LSS 29-30
Feb 26	Teaching - Intercessory & Golden Years Encounter with Jesus - Solo Parents

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

Stewardship
It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JAN. 15, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,450	8,273
Expenses	358	9,890
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,092	(1,617)
Ondoy Disaster Fund		1,227
Haiti Relief Fund		544

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

Thank you for your continued support!

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 4

Bulletin Edition

Jan. 29, 2010

SINGLES *Spearhead Haiti Relief Effort*

The news of devastation of catastrophic magnitude brought about by the recent earthquake that hit Haiti struck the minds and hearts of everyone most especially our young people. Emails and Facebook accounts, comments, and calls for action flew all over the web. The BLD Singles Ministry responded with haste and proactively mobilized its limited resources and on Jan. 15, 2010 called upon everyone to give monetary donations for the victims and survivors of this calamity. Everyone offered heartfelt prayers and petitions for strength, peace, and solitude for our Haitian brothers and sisters. Others even advocated for more active roles in the relief effort. Overall, the mood of the Singles is of profound compassion. The Singles implore everyone to join them as they lift our Haitian brother and sisters in prayer:

It is with deep sadness that we all come to You, Lord, as we ask for Your mercy and grace upon Haiti and its people. We ask that You extend Your loving arms upon them so they, too can feel the serenity of Your peace, the encouragement of Your strength and the comfort of Your love. For us who watch from the outside as this unfolds, give us a heart full of compassion so we can lend our helping hands to the fullest extent of our resources, in kind, in prayers and in petition. This we pray in Jesus Name. AMEN.

March for Life 2010

A Beautiful Celebration of Life

The weather forecast was for rain and snow in Washington, DC for the day of the March for Life. Instead, God heard prayers and granted a dry, fairly warm, even sunny day.

But it wasn't so much a day about the marchers and the weather, it was really a day about innocent infant lives lost; about the jeopardy human life faces, when lives are trivialized both for the unborn, as well as the aged and infirm.

Tens of thousands, convened in the nations capital with a message of hope, life and healing – for mothers, fathers, children... for all. It was also a call to the nation, it's leaders and its citizens, to galvanize into action, to return to the America of promise, for that which is right - not

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

A Still More Excellent Way

WORD: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31-13:1-3; Lk 4:21-30

THEME: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who love unconditionally.

ORDER: ***“Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. (Love)”*** (1 Cor 12:31)

REFLECTION:

One of the strongest emotions that fuel the human race is love. In the name of love, monuments, prose, art works, and seemingly impossible tasks have been achieved. This Sunday's second reading touches on the other aspect of love that energizes daily human interaction. This is the attitude that the Lord calls for each one of us to possess, develop, and most of all to witness to our brethren, spouse, children, parents, friends, and enemies alike. It is the love that is other-centered and self-sacrificing.

A little internet quiz asks this question: “Are you a Christian at home when no one is around to see what you do?” The greatest challenge Christians face at home is the expression of unconditional, selfless love. As a disciple of Christ, we should reflect upon this question daily and seek to improve in this area of our character. Oftentimes there is a disparity between our public and private actions and this is what hurts those closest to us the most. This Sunday's reading states:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Cor 13:4-7)

In the King James version of the bible the translation used for patient is “long suffering.” Biblical commentator Matthew Henry said: “Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you and will rescue you.” (Jer 1:19, NIV)

My Conversion



I had always thought that I was doing quite well as a Catholic. I believed I was a pretty decent person. I went to church almost every Sunday, loved my wife and my children and was a law-abiding citizen.

I was a respectful and helpful person to the people around me. I didn't see any need for change in my life. One day, my wife invited me to go on a vacation weekend and I accepted. The vacation weekend turned out to be a marriage encounter weekend. And what a life changer it was! It opened the door to a new life for us... a life lived with and centered on Christ. But my conversion did not happen overnight. Unlike the apostles who immediately dropped everything when Jesus called them to "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men", my daily walk of faith can be best described as a zig-zag-roller-coaster type of adventure. One minute I would be raising my hands and praising the Lord and in a wink, my mind would wander into the lowly desires of this earth.

But that is the beauty, the joy and the tears of living for and with Christ. He has changed me in ways I could never imagine possible. I always believed that the best way to communicate was to be frank and honest even if it hurt and caused pain to others. I always justified my ways with "as long as I spoke the truth". My conversion experience gradually transformed me and I found myself becoming more compassionate and understanding. My manner of speaking changed after I found out that more could be accomplished with kind words than harsh put downs. I also found out that I could never ever change other people no matter how hard I tried. I realized that it was I who had to change, then my outlook of the other person changed for the better. This allowed me to finally have a very meaningful and peaceful relationship with my mother. It also changed the way I looked at my son. Before, I was resentful, even angry, about the fact that my son was so good because he had a very pure and sincere belief in the goodness of the world. I was scared that he would not survive the evils of the world so I wanted him to be bad, just like his Dad when he was growing up. It was not until our aspirants' retreat that the Lord touched me when He opened my heart to see the real blessing He had given me of an angel in my son.

My conversion is a work-in-progress. It is not a work of art or a work of perfection. I still struggle and I know that I may fall a few or several more times along the road of life but with the Lord by my side to pick me up or carry me, I know that when my day is done, I will have my reunion with Jesus.

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Apologetics

How to Receive Communion

Communion may be received either in the hand or on the tongue. Around the year A.D. 390, Cyril of Jerusalem indicated that the early Church practiced Communion in the hand when he instructed his audience: "*Approaching, therefore, come not with thy wrists extended, or thy fingers open; but make thy left hand as if a throne for thy right, which is on the eve of receiving the King. And having hollowed the palm, receive the Body of Christ, saying after it, 'Amen.' Then after thou hast with carefulness hollowed thine eyes by the touch of the holy body, partake thereof; giving heed lest thou lose any of it; for what thou lovest is a loss to thee as it were from one of thine own members. For tell me, if anyone gave thee gold dust, wouldst thou not with all precaution keep it fast, being on thy guard losing any of it, and suffering loss?*" (Catechetical Lectures 23:22).

The Congregation of the Sacraments and Divine Worship permitted the U.S. Bishops' Conference to authorize reception of Communion in the hand in July 25, 1977, provided the local bishop implements the practice in his diocese. Once implemented, the option to receive Communion either in the hand or on the tongue always remains with the communicant. No priest, deacon, acolyte, or extra ordinary minister of Holy Communion may refuse a communicant Communion on the tongue. Likewise, once the local bishop has introduced Communion in the hand (except when Communion is given by intinction, in which case it must be given on the tongue.)

Finally, after you have received Communion, it is appropriate to stay after mass and thank Jesus in coming to you in the Holy Eucharist. The Church mandates that "*the faithful are to be recommended not to omit to make a proper thanksgiving after Communion. They may do this during the celebration with a period of silence, with a hymn, psalm or other song of praise, or also after the celebration, if possible by staying behind to pray for a suitable time.*" (Inaestimabile Donum 17).

After receiving Jesus into one own's body and being drawn more closely into his, how could one do any less?

"Non-Christians and Communion"

The U.S. bishops' guidelines for receiving Communion state: "We also welcome in this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family."

Because they have not received baptism, the gateway to the other sacraments, non-Christians cannot receive Communion. However, in emergency situations, they can be received into the Church via baptism, even if no priest is present, and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may bring them Communion as Viaticum.

Source: The Essential Catholic Survival Guide (p. 175-176)

Saint Thomas Aquinas Doctor of the Church



Saint Thomas Aquinas is one of the most famous saints of the Catholic Church. He is called a 'Doctor of the Church.' He was a theologian and a philosopher. He was born to a wealthy family in Italy in 1225, the son of a count. He was five years

old when his parents sent him to study with the Benedictines where he completed his education quickly and with great faith, to the surprise of his teachers. He excelled in learning as well as practicing the virtues.

When he was 19 years old, he chose the garb of a poor friar, a Dominican. His family wanted him to become a Benedictine. His mother instructed his brothers to capture Thomas and lock him up in a castle. At one point, two of his brothers hired a prostitute to seduce him, but he drove her away, wielding a burning stick. According to legend, that night two angels appeared to him as he slept and strengthened his determination to remain celibate. His mother, sister and brothers kept him there for two years; finally, Thomas was allowed to join the Dominicans. At school, they called him 'the ox' because Thomas was a very big man with a kind and humble manner. He didn't talk very much; everyone thought he was stupid.

But his preaching was very pious and full of wisdom. After becoming a priest, he studied and then taught at universities in many cities of Europe. Saint Thomas wrote many theological and philosophical books and composed several beautiful hymns as well. His most famous work, the *Summa Theologica*, was never finished.

He died on his way to the Council of Lyons, in answer to a summons from Pope Gregory X. He was canonized in 1323 and named a Doctor of the Church in 1567.

In Aquinas's thought, the goal of human existence is union and eternal fellowship with God. Specifically, this goal is achieved through beatific vision, an event in which a person experiences perfect, unending happiness by seeing the very essence of God. This vision, which occurs after death, is a gift from God given to those who have experienced salvation and redemption through Christ while living on earth.

I feel that I have personally experienced this gift, after our LSS sponsorship when we were cleaning up the venue. The celebration extended to an hour because of the continuation of songs, praises and dances. I could never forget that hour; I felt I was in heaven in the presence of God. I was back to being a child again playing with my friends while my dad watched smiling! As I looked around, I saw the same angelic smiles and laughter in the faces of my peers. Thank you Lord!

COUNSEL (from page 1)

does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God. It can endure evil, injury, and provocation, without being filled with resentment, indignation, or revenge. It makes the mind firm, gives it power over the angry passions, and furnishes it with a persevering patience that shall rather wait and wish for the reformation of a brother than fly out in resentment of his conduct. It will put up with many slights and neglects from the person it loves, and wait long to see the kindly effects of such patience on him."

Oftentimes, our homes and our community become spiritual battlegrounds as the destructive emotions of self-importance, pride, and self-will prevail. As we start the New Year, it is apparent that God's message for us to keep His peace and His reign in our homes and our community in 2010 is by sharing and living His love, the love described by St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians. It is manifested in relationships that are respectful, generous, understanding, and forgiving. However deep is the pain that children may inflict on parents there is no recourse but to love, forgive, and bear. Our biggest failing is when we direct self-righteous and bitter words towards our family members or when we subject them to cold, unyielding treatment. We need to practice restraint in our speech and be quick to offer a forgiving or understanding touch. There is no place in community for angry e-mails or ill speech whether or not God's word is quoted in them. We are all responsible for our actions. Our sanctity is not dependent on how others respond to us, but how we provoke a loving and righteous response from our children, spouse, and brethren.

As we learn that our actions within our homes are not independent of our witness as Christians then we come to understand that our foundation, as disciples of Christ will become truly selfless and a "still more excellent way." When we can draw strength from right relationships in our homes and in our community then we can begin to reach out and be fruitful in our relationships with others. The attitude of selflessness can only be achieved through humility and self-sacrifice, love and service, reaching out to those God is calling or those who may have lost their sense of belonging in community. "...So that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love." CCC 25

May our Good Lord bless us mightily this upcoming year with the virtue that binds and unites families, and makes us effective ministers of God's gospel! "*Love never fails.*"

DIRECTIONS:

1. Seek out those who are most in need of love and those who have lost their sense of belonging in the community.
2. Love one another as Christ loves us.

Saving Sam

Hi! My name is Samantha! / Hi! My name is Samuel! You can call me Sam for short.

You know, I gave myself a name because I didn't want to be just "a baby". You know, I'm someone... and all the others like me are someone's who would've had names too. Actually, I became Sam, the moment God saw it fit for me to be conceived. And we aren't "Silent Sams"... it's just that our screams are sometimes not heard.

Anyway, I want to thank you for praying for babies; to thank you for marching for infants. Because of you, somewhere out there, a mother will choose hope, and not despair; will opt to bravely love, not succumb to found-less fear. Because of you, somewhere out there, lives were defended, not destroyed.

Although America took a "giant leap forward" when mankind landed on the moon over four decades ago, it seems that everyday, Americans take huge steps backward because she mistrusts her ability to take care of the lives that should be there in her future. Sadly, we'll never know the promises that would've been fulfilled by trusting love instead. And we would have loved you in return too...

So now I think, maybe if you gave us names, it would make a difference... because we're people too...

Please continue to pray for me and all the other Sams out there. It's that important. I bet somewhere, Jesus is saying "Thank you for saving Sam!" I say thank you for caring.

Always, please celebrate life. May love always prevail. *- Sam*

A Beautiful Celebration of Life *(continued)*

despair nor the fall to the lure of ease and convenience.

Among the busloads that descended on Washington was one from BLD Newark. In it were the young and the youthful of heart from its many ministries. In the march itself, there were people from all over the world. There were families, there were kids and parents, there were those - "young once"... There were children marching for other children.

On the BLD bus ride back to Rahway, a number of marchers shared on the impact the day had on them. In a nutshell, it was stirring and moving.

It was a long walk but a fun yet meaningful and memorable march. It was a beautiful celebration of life.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

*Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life*

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubugan)

Mar. 5 • St Mary's • Lambs introduction to Shepherds

YLSS No. 15

Mar. 5-7 • St Mary's Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, ycs@bldnewark.com

Youths aged 15-19 • Applications @ www.bldnewark.com

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 13, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 14, Sun., 7am-7pm

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7am

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • Apr. 17-18 (LSS Proper)

St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jan 29 Intro To Commitment – LSS 31-32

Four Basic Truths – ME 34

Feb 06* Basic Bible Seminar – LSS 33

Christian Parenting I – ME 34

Paulinian Letters – Covenanted Disciples

Feb 12 Four Basic Truths – ME 34

Teaching - Youth

Feb 19 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6 & Service

Christian Maturity II - Singles

Feb 20* Christian Maturity II – ME 34

Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit – LSS 31-32

Shepherds Training - LSS 29-30

Feb 26 Teaching – Intercessory, Golden Years & Youth

Encounter with Jesus - Solo Parents

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JAN. 22, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,620	11,893
Expenses	1,760	11,650
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,860	243
Haiti Relief Fund		908

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Mar. 5-7 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ

Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

DLC MEETING

Mar. 13 @ 1-5pm • St. Mary's

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

Mar.13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall, Souh Orange, NJ

Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.

Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 5

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 5, 2010

Ministry Assignments

Norie and Miriam Abes	Pastoral
Jun and Grace Arceo	Service
Lito and Elaine Fernando	Service
Rene and Claire Monje	Mission
Vivian Montalban	Intercessory
Eric and Genny Pedregosa	Pastoral
Delfin and Letty Salon	Word
John and Jiji Talavera	Secretariat
Ven and Fe Taraya	Liturgy
Vic and Rory Tiu	Teaching
Mar and Mila Union	Pastoral
Rene and Lolit Vito	Service

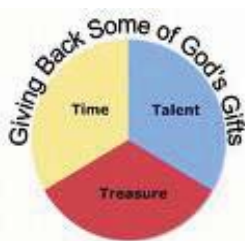
Stewardship Prayer

Lord God, You alone are the source of every good gift. We praise You and thank You for Your great power and tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have are your gifts.

O Lord, forgive our fears that so stifle our stewardship. Forgive our giving in and our giving up instead of giving ourselves to Christ's mission of love.

Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us; to share our time, our talent, and our material and spiritual gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, That there may be food in my house, and try me in this, says the LORD of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure?" (Mal 3:10)

Make Covenant News A Part of Your Covenant Life!

COUNSELS Submission

WORD: Is 6:1-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

THEME: We spread the Good News of salvation when we depend on and trust in God's grace.

ORDER: ***"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch...do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."*** (Lk 5: 4, 10)

REFLECTION:

"The BLDGK Ministry members were awake at the crack of dawn on a rainy Sunday for the two-hour drive to Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. They were eager to conduct a Basic Bible Seminar (BBS).

It was the first time for most of the participants to hold a Bible. At the far end of the packed room, a frail-looking man in his mid-50s was visibly struggling with the first exercise. I immediately approached him. I saw the pain in his eyes as he struggled to write down the titles of the different books of the Bible. He got stuck with "Exodos" and lagged far behind the rest of the class.

I soon realized what his problem was. He could barely write and was patiently copying from the blackboard, one letter at a time. But it did not stop him from actively participating and listening intently all day long.

It was almost dark and it was pouring when we left the Fr. Lehman's BLD-GK village. My husband and I were tired, sweaty and smelly. But our hearts were full of joy and love. We had done our part in spreading the Gospel, at least for that day." (Bible Reflection for January 11, 2010, Didache) This BLDGK episode is no doubt an all too familiar story for most of us in community who strive to obey God's call to spread the Good News of salvation The response could come in many forms i.e., building homes in a BLD GK village, sponsoring an encounter weekend, shepherding at an LSS outreach, visiting inmates at the Correctional ***Continued on page 3***

Promise of the Week

"...you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me." (Ps 138:3)

A John 6 Love Offering: Presentation of the Lord at the Temple



December 25 - Christmas specials, shopping, mistletoe. It is known worldwide that Dec. 25 is a cause to celebrate. With Christmas long over, most people await Easter for the next celebration of Christ in the

Spring The Presentation of Child Jesus in the temple is the fourth joyful mystery as well as the next cause of jubilee among Christians.

Although it is not emphasized as much as Peeps and Evergreen trees, the Presentation is an important time to reflect the beauty of Christ's birth.

According to the Gospel of Luke 2:22-40 Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for Mary's purification after childbirth and to redeem the first born child as the law of Moses states. Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, the holy family encountered Simeon, the Righteous. In Luke 2:26 the Gospel states that Simeon had been promised that, "**He should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.**"

He then prophesied to Mary in Luke 2:34-35 "**He [Jesus] will be a sign that people do not believe in. He will make many people in Israel fall and rise. (Yes, a long knife will cut your heart too.) What people think will be made known.**"

Simeon knew the hardships Jesus would face as He matured. He was chosen to be salvation to the faithful.

The redemption of Christ can be considered a bit redundant. But it is there at the temple where Jesus is for the first time, presented in front of God as the savior of the world.)

The birth of Christ is significant, but the important events of Christ's life is equally as significant, the presentation being one of them. Before others fall into the monotony of daily living, Catholics must see the presentation as cause to celebrate, because there in the temple, the glory of God was evident.

Bible Trivia: Who said?

1. *Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?* Judas, Simon, Jesus or Mary
2. *Let me die with the Philistines!* Moses, Elijah, Samson or Goliath
3. *What is truth?* Ananias, Pilate, Jesus or Peter
4. *Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God.* Paul, Peter, Jesus or Luke
5. *And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you.* Peter, Pilate, Paul or Timothy
6. *Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.* Paul, John the Baptist, Barnabas or Stephen
7. *Am I my brother's keeper?* Jacob, Joseph, Cain or Seth
8. *Speak; for your servant is listening?* David, Samuel, Elijah or Enoch

COME AWAY TO A DESERTED PLACE ALL BY YOURSELVES & REST A WHILE



The servant heart of Jesus revealed to us a non-stop ministry of our Lord to touch people's lives. As Jesus saw how exhausted His disciples were and had very little left to give of themselves, He invited His disciples after their first successful mission, "*Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.*"

Retreat, meditation and contemplation are key elements of effective ministry work. Working in God's vineyard entails self-denial, dying to self and carrying our cross, not only once but on a continuing basis. Serving God's people out of love for the Father requires sacrifice in the same manner we saw the Thessalonians work for God.

In never ending love and compassion, Jesus disclosed the need for every Christian worker to go on a retreat - a time to rest in the Lord, a special time to meditate on His works, His grace and goodness, a time to receive His word and will in our daily lives. He modeled to us that spiritual energy and strength can be with us in special times of prayer to the Father; in times of solitude with Him where our hearts can grow in love and peace. This is the time when we communicate to Him and bring up to Him our frailties and what impede us from doing our work for Him. He brings us to those moments when we allow Him to pour His grace and mighty anointing upon us.

Going on a retreat means drawing closer to God and learning more about Him. The more we have of Him, the more we will see Him do incredible things (John 1:47-50). When we learn and have more of Him, the more we will crave to be involved in His work. As we seek God and His will for us, our understanding of Him will grow and our heart for people will also grow, because our heart will become more like His heart, because God in us will overflow to all our relationships.

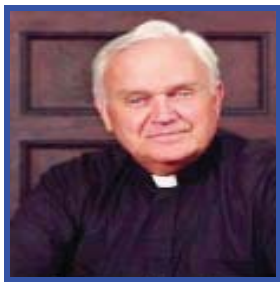
Being alone with God renews us, invigorates us, and prepares us to do more work for Him. Our doubts, indifference, rigidity are replaced with faith and love. Our fear of failure is erased because we have God as our Protector to combat our fears.

Today, let us seek His refuge and have extraordinary times with Him. Let us continue to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts, for in His Spirit are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, love and mercy that can bring us to a complete union with God and His people.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

9. *But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives.* Job, David, Isaiah or Daniel
10. *I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves.* Caiaphas, Herod, Pontius Pilate, or Judas *Answers on page 4*

Fr. Paul Speaks



Mystery of the Blessed Trinity

I am honored again to be able to share with you some topics that I consider important for community life as well as for the individual spiritual life of each one of us. Usually there is an approaching liturgical season, a feast day, or even perhaps a community issue that needs to be addressed. Lent begins a few weeks hence on Feb. 17th. There will be many teachings in Covenant News and elsewhere giving us the encouragement we need to approach this most important season of the year with proper preparation and motivation. In the meantime I should like to share with you a most important topic that may seem at first glance to be a bit too abstract to be of practical value. Yet I know that this subject, the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity, is central and foundational to all the teachings of our Catholic faith.

The doctrine of the Trinity does not appear in its present technical form in the Bible, even though the teaching of Jesus is the foundation and source of the revelation of that mystery. In the New Testament Jesus refers often to His Father, and to the Spirit, as comforter and advocate. It was the Church at the council of Nicea in the year 325, who adopted technical terms to make the mystery of God more understandable. We recite this most important belief of our faith every Sunday when we recite the Nicene Creed. It is important to be careful how we use terms like person, nature and substance. There are three persons in God, but only one nature. In Jesus, on the other hand, we have one person and two natures. These are not mere technicalities. They are the nourishment of our Christian prayer life.

One of the most overlooked realities is the fact of the divine indwelling, the reality that the three persons of God truly live and abide in us when we are “in the state of grace.” This so called state of grace changes to be able to welcome that wonderful Presence of the all holy God. This awareness can make prayer time “easier”. It helps us focus on a Reality that can be perceived by faith. Instead of trying to think of God as someone outside of us, like someplace in heaven, think of God as inside our very being, loving, correcting and encouraging us. As St. Paul said to the Athenians; **“In him we live, move and have our being.”** We are indebted to Jesus for not only redeeming us by his precious blood, but for also revealing to us that God is a Father who loves, a Brother who gives us life, and a Spirit who consoles and sanctifies.

To God be the Glory

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COUNSEL (from page 1)

Institute for Women or the Bilibid Prison, and many more. Often, we become over-anxious or pre-occupied with the logistics – the preparations, fundraising, securing volunteers, recruiting candidates, while engaged in other secular pursuits. And when we do go out to evangelize, we have a tendency to rely on our own human resources and ability, forgetting that we are merely the Lord’s instruments in building His kingdom.

Our readings this Sunday demonstrate, in the persons of Isaiah, Paul and Peter, how the Lord manifests His presence and His grace in our lives, as we reach out to others and go about doing our work in His vineyard. In the 1st reading, the seraphim touches the mouth of Isaiah and declares, **“See, now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged,”** (Is 6:7). In so doing, without much physical preparation, the Lord instantly empowers Isaiah to go and become a prophet speaking in God’s name. And it was sufficient for Isaiah to respond in humble obedience, **“Here I am...send me!”** (Is 6:8).

In the 2nd reading, Paul makes known that it is not by his own power that he is able to go and preach, but by God’s grace. **“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me,”** (1 Cor 15:10).

Finally, the gospel tells us that the Lord knew the disciples had been fishing all night without bringing in a catch, yet He commands them to cast their nets. One can imagine Simon Peter’s consternation, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets,” (Luke 5:5). We all know how the story ends. A great number of fish were caught and their nets were tearing. And all Peter had to do to release God’s bounty was suspend his skepticism and obey Jesus.

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Bukas Loob Sa Diyos Covenant Community, there can be no better time for us to reflect upon the lives of these servants of the Lord and emulate them. Inspired by our Global Spiritual Director, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the theme of our year-long silver anniversary celebration revolves around God’s word in the gospel, **“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch,”** (Lk 5:4).

Let us, as one body moving forward in Christ, embark on our mission for the next 25 years, following in the footsteps of the prophet Isaiah who willingly submitted to the Lord’s calling. Let us heed the words of Paul who relied on God’s grace to do the work. And most of all, let us keep our faith burning like Simon Peter who remained steadfast in his trust and confidence, regardless of the circumstances, **“If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth,”** (1 Pt 4:11).

DIRECTIONS

1. Trust in the Lord by allowing yourself to be the instrument of God’s love, peace and unity in the community.
2. Remain steadfast in evangelizing others relying on the grace of God alone

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish
St. Mary's School, Rm 104, Fridays from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)
Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213
Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children
are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please
note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up
must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents
will be responsible for their children's safety.

*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit
56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Feb. 13 • ME 24 • Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. • **Feb. 27 • ME# 33**
Contacts: Mon/Sandy Campomanes • Gerry/Gigi
Cabunag 201.233.1295 • gcabunag@optonline.net

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take
place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord
with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon
those who are celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE
Mar. 5-7 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

DLC MEETING

Mar. 13 • 1-5pm @ St. Mary's

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

Mar. 13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall, South Orange, NJ
Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith
and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubugan)

Mar. 5 • St Mary's • Lambs introduction to Shepherds

YLSS No. 15

Mar 5-7, 2010 • St Mary's, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, yca@bldnewark.com
Youths aged 15-19 • Applications @ www.bldnewark.com

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 13, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 14, Sun., 7am-7am

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7am

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)

St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb 6* Basic Bible Seminar – LSS 33
Christian Parenting I – ME 34
Paulinian Letters – Covenanted Disciples

Feb 12 Four Basic Truths – ME 34
Teaching - Youth

Feb 19 Teaching – Mark 10, John 6 & Service
Christian Maturity II - Singles

Feb 20* Christian Maturity II – ME 34
Gifts & Fruit of the HS – LSS 31-32
Shepherds Training - LSS 29-30

Feb 26 Teaching - Intercessory & Golden Years
Encounter with Jesus - Solo Parents

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm



*Ignorance of the
Bible
is ignorance of
Christ.
Read your Bible
daily*

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JAN. 29, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,675	15,568
Expenses	2,183	13,832
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,492	1,736
Haiti Relief Fund		1,299

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Answers:
1) Judas Jn 12:4-6
2) Samson Jgs 16:30
3) Pilate Jn 18:37-38
4) Peter Acts 5:3-4
5) Paul Acts 20:26
6) Stephen Acts 7:59
7) Cain Gens 4:9
8) Samuel 1 Sm 3:10
9) Job Job 19:25
10) Pilate Mt 27:24



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 7

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 19, 2010

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

TORONTO, FEB. 16, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Ash Wednesday makes one's faith very visible and public. Not offensively -- but also not easy to miss -- the sign of our faith shows up in the office, at school, on buses and subways, in lines at the grocery store, or at the gas station. This small symbol of the cross of ashes on our foreheads expresses an important truth: Faith doesn't happen only at church, but lives among us, in public, every day.

The Scripture texts for the liturgy of Ash Wednesday do not only remind us of sin and death; they are a loud call to overcome sin, to be converted to Christ and the Gospel and to prepare for the new life of Easter. I would like to offer some reflections on what it means to be reconciled to God, to be an "Ambassador for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20-21), and the meaning of authentic piety and devotion as outlined in Matthew's Gospel text for today's liturgy (6:1-6, 16-18). I will conclude with some thoughts on Benedict XVI's profound 2010 Lenten reflection on God's justice.

Be reconciled to God!

Today -- the liturgy tells us -- is the "acceptable time" for our reconciliation with God. Reconciliation is a gratuitous gift of God. Reconciliation must involve everyone: individuals, families, nations and peoples.

In the passage from 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Paul encouraged the fractious Corinthian community to recognize that God has "reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (5:18). Paul speaks of "the new creation in Christ" (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17) and goes on to tell us: "God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding individuals' faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that we are reconciled. [...] The appeal we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

When we speak of the world as reconciled to God, we are speaking not only of individuals but also of every community: families, communities, clans, tribes, nations and states. In his providence, God made covenant after covenant with the human family: the covenant with our first parents in the Garden of Eden; the covenant with Noah after the Flood and the covenant with Abraham.

In the Book of Joshua we learn about the covenant made with Israel, when Moses *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS Out from the Desert

WORD: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

THEME: We spread the Good News of salvation when we confess with our mouths and witness with our lives that Jesus is Lord.

ORDER:

- "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." (Lk. 4:8)
- "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." (Lk. 4:12)

REFLECTION:

In the practice of *Lectio Divina*, one way we get deeper into the Word of God is by visualizing ourselves as truly present in, say, a Gospel scene as opposed to just reading it in a superficial way. We can easily slip into the latter case if we fail to really listen from our heart. We will struggle in understanding what the reading is conveying. Its meaning eludes us as we assume familiarity or a rigid mindset in approaching the Word.

Take today's Gospel scene as we mark the first Sunday of Lent. Who has not heard or read the temptation of Jesus in the desert? What does it really say to us, and why is it situated at this time, so closely after we started this holy season with the feast of Ash Wednesday? Let us try to get closer to the Word and remain close to Jesus throughout the narrative episode. It's all too simple and familiar - but is it? We see Jesus, after His baptism in the Jordan, going into the desert. He fasts, for forty days he does not eat; after which, he feels hungry. The devil senses an opportunity, and launches his first of three temptations. "Command this stone to become bread. Jesus replied, 'One does not live on bread alone.' Luke 4:3-4 *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

(Rom 10:11)

JOY IN PERSEVERANCE

Through the years, the BLD community has nurtured my family spiritually and held our hands as we journeyed in our quest for the Truth. Our thirst for the Living Waters has continually been quenched through the many well thought-out programs and teachings that have been strategically presented to us month after month, year after year. For those of us who have persevered in running the race even after several falters, failings, and setbacks, we can claim that we have been nourished and well fed with God's word and have witnessed God's amazing grace in our lives. Having been equipped with God's full armor to stand firm against the devil's schemes, we were slowly given tasks to serve in various ministries. Each assignment had its own challenges and victories, each one leaving us with lessons learned.

With my spouse reaching retirement age, we have feverishly searched for a potential retirement place far from the bitter cold of the Northeast region which our old bones can no longer take. Our pursuit has taken us to half a dozen states but the one that truly stood out among the rest is Las Vegas, Nevada. Friends and family have discouraged us claiming that it is the Sin City, the next Sodom and Gomorrah. All the more, our desire grew stronger. We saw the need for Christ in the area. We prayed for clarity and confirmation of our calling. We prayed that the desires of our hearts aligned with the Lord's plan for our lives.

A few weeks ago, the Covenant News Editor asked me to write my reflections for the newsletter based on these Scriptural Verses:

“Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

My thoughts turned towards Vegas where the desires of the senses could be easily sated and the things of the Lord would seem less palatable. I thought about the tremendous work that needs to be done to save even but a few lives. Is this the Lord's way of giving us a go signal? I do not know. I do know that if it is His will, He will make a way and open doors for us to make this move a fruition. If not, then He will put stops in all our efforts. However, I also know that He also has His permissive will where it is not necessarily His perfect will for us but he allows it to happen because He gave us our free will to choose. So, if we want it so badly, every little opening will always feel like it is coming from the Lord. Nevertheless, I will put my full trust that ***“...all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.”*** Romans 8:28

Lord, thy will be done in our lives. Amen.

WHY SINNERS, NOT THE RIGHTEOUS ARE CALLED

“Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners.’” Luke 5:31 – 32

Drug, alcohol and gambling addictions are just a few of the bad habits that we pray our children do not get involved with. The mere thought of it happening to our children devastates us. We all hate it when it happens. Yet when it happens to our children, relatives, friends and/or community members we become more loving and compassionate to them as Jesus does. We hate the addiction but love the individual addicted to it.

People that fall to addiction become prisoners of their bad habits. They lose their self-respect and have no one to turn to, but us. Only our love, compassion and understanding can free them from this prison in their life.

The same is true 2000 years ago, during the time of Jesus. In the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry Luke narrates how Jesus reading from the scroll from the prophet Isaiah states that He has been anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor and was sent to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.

From the Hebrews, Jesus surely did not help angels but rather us, the descendants of Abraham. He had to become like His brothers in every way, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people.

Although we are all sinners, God loves us. He sent His only Son to save us from eternal damnation. The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus can only save us as long as we repent of our sins and be reconciled with the Lord.

Despite all these, the life of a Christian is not all prayers and sacrifice. It is an awareness of life. It is also about the gifts and joys that God gives us and always being aware of God's presence in us and around us. We must let our lives be filled with good friendship, creativity, celebration, and healthy leisure. Let us not forget however that we need Jesus' love to keep us healthy and in good standing but most especially when we become prisoners of sin.

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

Ministry Matters

DISCIPLING MINISTRY

The Ministry is composed of Discippler couples, individuals who are community elders and have served either as Class Shepherds or Ministry/Apostolate Heads.

A monthly plenary session is held to discuss the Discipling topics on:

1. Personal Values- Self Responsibility, Self Knowledge & Self Giving;
2. Communitarian values- Group Responsibility & Group Understanding;
3. Covenant of Communion; and
4. Workshops on Self Examination of one's Own Discipleship & Community Building

A committed disciple who has completed the Aspirants Retreat is invited to join the Discipling Ministry's process which is within BLD's Christian Development and Formation Program (CDFP) wherein aspirants undergo a 6-month period of individual or group sessions to:

- ✓ Aid and guide aspirants on their growth to maturity: to bear fruit in their spiritual journey, to be an effective soul winner, to be a dedicated teacher and "doer" of the Word.
- ✓ Build & strengthen desired Christian behavioral patterns which Jesus has modeled to His disciples.
- ✓ Equip and transform aspirants' perspectives on changes in priorities from leadership to service, from secular to spiritual advocacy in Church and community causes that lead to a Christ centered life.
- ✓ Provide them with counsels through mentoring and shepherding so that they will be better equipped for community life and enable them to disciple others.
- ✓ Help aspirants in their discernment leading to sealing of covenant.

The Disciples are encouraged to respond and share their thoughts on topics being discussed. These sessions offer an opportunity for the Disciples to ask questions regarding their own walk with Christ, the Scripture, experience and attitude about their ministry and community as a whole.

The Aspirants are expected to have gone through good Christian witnessing and completion of the 6 monthly sessions. A Disciples' assessment is completed by each respective Ministry Coordinator for every disciple serving the ministry. A Discippler's recommendation is compiled by the Discipling Ministry Coordinator based on information gathered from the Corporate Worship attendance, CDFP teachings and discipling sessions. *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Let us now try to see how the devil then showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant, tempting and seducing him: "***Worship me, and I shall give you all this.***" Luke 4:7. Jesus answered him, "***Worship the Lord, your God, him alone shall you serve.***" Luke 4:8. Watch now the third temptation, high up on the parapet of the temple in Jerusalem. "***Throw yourself down, and angels will guard and support you.***" Matthew 4:6 Jesus replied, "***Do not put God to the test.***" Matthew 4:7

We may need to read the passage again. If we did this right, we would have experienced the heat of the desert, the hunger pangs of the forty-day fast; the vision of all the world's wealth and power and glory would have dazzled us; standing at the top of the temple, high up about 20 stories, we could hardly open our eyes amid the dizzying, spinning sensation. Yet we could hear every word and even imagine the intonation of the two adversaries. We heard every exchange of quoted Scripture (yes, Satan knew the words of the good book!).

Which words in particular touched us, which has meaning to what's happening in our life or who we truly are? As we say in our Word sharing circles, what is our "struck"? Take for instance, Christ's words: "***Worship the Lord, your God, him alone shall you serve.***" Luke 4:8. We've been reading in the aftermath of the great tragedy in Haiti, that man to achieve his own ends will make the decision to turn, not to God, but to evil. Making a pact with the devil may bring immediate results and gratification, but the consequences are serious, destructive and long-lasting, if not perpetual.

Do we hold on to our faith when our prayers and petitions seem unanswered, and we see contradictions like evil seemingly rewarded with having the good things in this world. Christ is our example in facing trials and finding the answers to the big, difficult questions in life. He is the Lord who alone shows us the way to eternal salvation, He is our righteousness and justification.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9. Let us reflect on these words that they may grow in us. "***For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.***" Rom 10:10.

Like Jesus, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be led to His gifts of growing understanding and deeper faith. Thus equipped, we will heed the call to spread the Good News as disciples of Christ. Only if Jesus lives in us that we truly can be out of the desert of worldly temptations.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Immerse yourself in the Word and be filled with the Holy Spirit to be able to resist temptation.
2. Be ready to defend our faith.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish
St. Mary's School, Rm 104, Fridays from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)
Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213
Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

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Every 4th Sat. • **Feb. 27 • ME# 33**
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201.233.1295 • gcabunag@optonline.net

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Feb. 19, 2010 • 4-8pm • St. Antoninus Parish Hall
337 South Orange Ave. Newark, NJ
You must weigh 120 lbs. Please eat a meal and drink
plenty of water 1 hour prior to donating.
Contact: D. Severt 908.361.7195 Dave_27405@yahoo.com

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Mar. 5-7 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

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Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith
and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

Ambassadors... (from page 1)

led the Israelites out of slavery in the land of Egypt. And
God has now made the final and definitive covenant with
all of humanity in Jesus Christ, who reconciled individual
men and women -- as well as entire nations -- to God by his
Passion, Death and Resurrection.

In the sacrament of the Eucharist, we celebrate the mystery
of our redemption and full reconciliation with God. It is
through his passion, death and resurrection that Jesus has
saved the world. Before receiving the body and blood of the
Lord, we show that we are at peace with one another. The
Eucharist is celebrated by a reconciled community. When
the celebration is ended, we are sent out to spread this peace
and message of reconciliation to others.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubungan)

Mar. 5 • St Mary's • Lambs introduction to Shepherds

YLSS No. 15

Mar 5-7, 2010 • St Mary's, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, ycs@bldnewark.com
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LSS No. 34

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St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb 19 Teaching – **Mark 10, John 6 & Service**
Christian Maturity II - **Singles**

Feb 20* Christian Maturity II – **ME 34**
Gifts & Fruit of the HS – **LSS 31-32**
Shepherds Training - **LSS 29-30**

Feb 26 Teaching - **Intercessory & Golden Years**
Encounter with Jesus - **Solo Parents**

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING FEB. 12, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	6,605	22,173
Expenses	5,742	19,574
Surplus/(Deficit)	863	2,599
Haiti Relief Fund		1,352

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

Ministry... (from page 3)

Then on the 5th month of the discipling session,
aspirants are recommended to the DCS for
covenanting.

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve
one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.
Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God;
whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God
supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and
dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* (1 Pt 4:10-11)



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 8

Bulletin Edition

Feb. 26, 2010

NEWS

Aide: The Pope Is a Model for Living Lent

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 21, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Many people do not know what Lent is all about or how to live it well, but Benedict XVI gives "clear and concrete" direction, according to a Vatican spokesman.

The director of the Vatican press office, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, affirmed this in the most recent edition of Vatican Television's "Octava Dies." "In secularized society there are many who do not really know what Lent means and how it must be lived," the Jesuit priest observed. "If we want a clear and concrete answer we only need to look at what Pope Benedict does."

"Last Sunday," Father Lombardi explained, "[the Holy Father] went to the Caritas hostel at the train station in Rome. He met with the poor of the city of which he is bishop: He was close to them, he shook their hands, he looked them in the eyes with emotion, he had words of comfort and hope for them. Concrete charity."

"Monday and Tuesday," the spokesman continued, "he was with the bishops of Ireland. He prayed and listened to their reflections on the Church's situation in their country, where there have been many sins and many errors, and [where] the scandal of sexual abuses even by priests has wounded so many persons and profoundly humiliated the Church.

"The Pope called on them to ask for God's mercy and the gift of the Holy Spirit to renew the Church. Conversion and penance."

"On Wednesday and Thursday the Pope celebrated the penitential liturgy, receiving and distributing the ashes, and then he met with the priests of his diocese to read and meditate on a passage of Scripture," Father Lombardi noted. "He did this with his usual profound intelligence and wisdom, helping us to rediscover the taste -- perhaps lost -- for listening to the Word of God. "Prayer and listening to the Word, conversion and penance, works of charity. Like Jesus said to those who asked him: You too go and do the same!"

COUNSELS

"Listen to Him". Listen to Jesus!

WORD: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 - 4:1; Lk 9:28-36

THEME: We spread the Good News of salvation when we remain faithful to our covenant with the Lord.

ORDER: "***This is my chosen Son. Listen to Him.***" (Lk. 9:35)

REFLECTION:

In the first reading, God made promises to Abram. Abram asks how he can know for sure that God will be true to His word. God responds by making a formal covenant with Abram. By faith Abram is justified, not through obedience to the Law.

In the second reading, we read that Faith is the saving power of the cross, the means of our salvation. The cross is an unavoidable aspect of the Christian journey. The path to heavenly life is through the cross of Jesus. St. Paul exhorts the Philippians to remain faithful to the true practice and teachings of the Church or else they will endanger their salvation. We would do well to follow this advice to ensure our lives are in Christ, not be so occupied with earthly things.

In the Gospel, Luke pointed out the importance of prayer. This took place when Jesus took James, John and Peter up on a mountain to pray. Awakened, they saw Jesus from a distance and were amazed that He was glowing. His face and garment were so bright. They saw figures standing with Jesus- Moses and Elijah, two of our greatest prophets. Peter's first response was to honor the place, to make it a place of worship. But the Lord would have none of that. Then, a cloud cast a shadow over them, and they heard a voice say, "***This is my son; listen to him!***" (Luke 9:35). After the voice had spoken, they found Jesus alone. Jesus told to Peter, , John & James

>>>> *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"...I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living." (Ps 27:13)

Personal Responsibility and Repentance

As we prepare ourselves for the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ during this Lenten season, Abba Father gives us many chances to introspectively examine our lives and repent from our sinful ways. In one of the Mass readings during the first week of Lent we read from Ezekiel 18:25 the following: ***“You say, ‘The LORD’s way is not fair!’ Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?”***

What is it about our human nature that we want to blame others for our inappropriate behavior? Is it that we fail so many times to take personal responsibility for our actions and for sin in our lives?

Growing up in a large Irish Catholic family with four brothers and three sisters, I often had the opportunity to *point my finger* at my siblings for some of my inappropriate behaviors. Very often they would be disciplined by my parents for my very own transgressions that I casted on them. Yet, is this trait of blaming others so unique to us living in the 21st century? Turning to God’s Holy Word, we read about many examples of individuals who didn’t want to take personal responsibility for their actions. In three short Scripture verses in Genesis we read about two such incidences. In Genesis 3:11-12 we observe that Adam wants to blame Eve for his disobedience to God when Adam responds to God’s question regarding his nakedness by saying ***“the woman whom you put here with me-she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”*** How quick Adam was ready to point his finger at Eve. Eve, on the other hand, isn’t so virtuous either. In the very next verse at Genesis 3:13, Eve, not wanting to take full responsibility for her own actions, responds to God’s question, ***“Why did you do such a thing?”*** with ***“The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.”***

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us ask the Lord for the grace to accept personal responsibility for our own actions. And let us ask the Lord for the grace to forgive others who have hurt us and have caused us pain in our life. And finally let us ask the Lord for the grace to ask for forgiveness of those in our families, community, and workplaces whom we have offended and sinned against. It will be then that we will finally recognize truly that God’s ways are not unfair but it is our ways that are unfair. Let us come to the Lord with repentant hearts as we proclaim to the world that **Jesus is Lord!**



THE CRY OF THE POOR

“If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.” Mt 7:11

God’s gracious gifts are just that gracious. They are unearned and unmerited by us who have willingly sinned against Him. Prayer is the appointed means for obtaining what we need. Pray, pray often, ask as a beggar ask for alms. Intercede for others and not only for ourselves. As we ask for His kindness, we have to give kindness to others. God is good, God is responsive. He gives us the clear assurance that our Father in heaven will give good gifts to the one who ask Him.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray with confidence because the Heavenly Father in His goodness always answers prayers. God hears our earnest request and answers them in truth and justice on what is best for us. It is what we perceived or what we want as an answer that makes us think that our prayers are unheard.

Our Heavenly Father goes beyond our expectations and knows what is best for mankind. He gave His only Son in sacrifice and in death to free us from sin to show his love for us. Is this not enough to trust him? The disciples didn’t know then what kind of love the Father will show them. Why are we still anxious and worry about our life and our needs tomorrow like we don’t have a Father that will care for us. Our Father fed the hungry, cured the sick and raised the dead, because he had seen the sincere cry of the people, their trust and faith in Him. What God has done was known to mankind for many, many years. Where is our faith and trust now? He’s the same kind God, who never changes. It is us who had changed. We are anxious and in fear. If we trust God, then we don’t have to worry, for we have found the answer to our prayer. Trust and faith is the only way we get the goodness of God to appear in our lives. Asking in prayer is connected to receiving, seeking God is connected to finding, and finding God is connected to the door being open, the cry of the poor is now heard.

The medical mission is one way God shows us how he answers prayers. The poor people in Mauban never knew that the day would come when their cry will be answered. For them, it was impossible. God uses us, as His instruments, to answer their prayers. Before BLD, we didn’t know that we will be called to share in God’s kindness by serving others. The Cry of the poor will now be heard, for the God that feeds us today, will feed us tomorrow. Teach us to trust in your goodness Lord and to learn to live without anxiety and fear, living in the present and leaving tomorrow to the merciful care of our Father in heaven.

For I Desire Mercy

“Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.” Mt 5:26

During the time of Jesus, it was a common practice to throw someone into a “debtor’s prison.” Although the debtor had no way of earning money he needed to remedy the debt while in prison, it was generally hoped that his family and friends would show him mercy and pay the debt.

Mercy means to treat others better than they deserve. Mercy is when we forgive those who offended us, although these people may not deserve it. Just as we don’t deserve the redemptive death of Jesus and the shedding of His blood, He has given them to us because of His mercy.

As Christians, we are expected to pass on to others the merciful forgiveness we have received from God. Extending mercy may cause us to feel uneasy. We feel embarrassed to talk of mercy to victims of injustices and violence. As a health care giver, I felt reluctant to talk to women who come to our institution seeking abortion. Worst of all, I saw them as patients who just needed a simple procedure done without any regards to their feelings and emotions. I just went about my duty as a caregiver. Everything changed when I joined BLD. I learned about God’s merciful love and compassion for all mankind—including sinners. I began to see these patients as people that God loves. I do not participate in any of the procedures, but I pray for them that a miracle might change their decision, and for myself that I may have the courage and the right words to say to them. I have become more compassionate and less judgmental. When we have mercy, we are not condoning sin but loving sinners. The more we love the sinners, the more we hate the sin that degrades them and separates them from God. ***“Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”*** (Luke 23:34) I say this prayer every time I am faced with such a difficult scenario. By following the life of Jesus, it became easier for me not to judge but to see these mothers as victims themselves.

Just as the debtors who were locked up in prison and relied on the mercy of their family and friends, we can extend our compassion to sinners by our prayers that they may be released from their state of sinfulness. For ***“he has turned away from all the sins he committed, he shall surely live.”*** (Ezekiel 18:28) They need and desire mercy... not judgment, not condemnation, and certainly not apathy.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

not to tell anyone. They weren't about to, because they didn't understand what happened! They will not understand what they saw until Calvary.

And how is it that the cross reveals God's glory? The Greek and Hebrew words for "glory" could mean "reputation". The good news revealed by Jesus is that God is love. On Good Friday, that hill called Calvary, just as in the mount of Transfiguration, shone forth with God's glory. We truly get God's “reputation” right when we look to the cross. We come to see beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is love and forgiveness.

Jesus came to reveal that God is love. Were it not for Jesus, many would still hold on to other notions about God, notions that are dead wrong. We sometimes think, for example, that God is an angry God who punishes people. We need to ask ourselves, "is this the God we see in the cross of Jesus?" In the cross, we also get to see who we truly are, and how we sometimes make up our own versions of God to justify the things we do. This is the part that's so hard for us to see and to hear. All our other ideas of God which are not about Love and Mercy are exactly that—gods of our making.

Through the Lord’s Transfiguration, Peter, John and James were given the grace to see God as revealed by Jesus. We too have to see God who is perfectly revealed in Jesus. That's why the voice from heaven said so clearly, "Listen to Him!" God spoke and revealed Himself partially through Elijah and Moses. But it is only in Jesus that God has revealed Himself completely. ***“All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”*** (Matthew 11:27)

The Lord gave us a new covenant, by which He gave Himself completely to us, and we give ourselves completely to Him. Through our covenant, we no longer see the Lord partially or from a distance, but up close, face to face, intimately. Our covenant joins us to Him, we become one with Him.

And because we are united with Jesus, He asks us to spread the Good News of His salvation. We are asked to give the Word out, that despite our lapses into sin, He forgives us. And God through Jesus Christ shares with us the >>>>> ***Continued on page 4***

COUNSEL *(from page 3)*

divine glory of the cross, the glory of being a sinner who is now forgiven, a lost sheep who has been found, one who was wrong but who finally got it right.

The call to spread the Good News is just as exciting and just as important. We are blessed to be called to help other people fully get to know who God is through Jesus. The important thing is to remember what that voice told James, John and Peter up on that mountain, "Listen to him." And when we listen to Jesus, we will receive the grace to be faithful to our covenant. "Listen to Him!"

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be imitators of Christ.
2. Stand firm in the Lord.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin

St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish

St. Mary's School, Room 104, Fridays from 7:30-8pm

Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word

For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)

Bring your old or unused School Supplies

St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)

Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213

Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, all parents of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children.

Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. • Feb. 27 • ME# 33

Contacts: Mon/Sandy Campomanes • Gerry/Gigi Cabunag

201.233.1295 • gcabunag@optonline.net

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the Community through an article (450 words)

Email to word@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34 (Salubungan)

Mar. 5 • St Mary's • Lambs introduction to Shepherds

YLSS No. 15

Mar 5-7, 2010 • St Mary's, Rahway, NJ

Contacts: dyc@bldnewark.com, yca@bldnewark.com

Youth aged 15-19 • Applications @ www.bldnewark.com

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 13, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 14, Sun., 7am-7pm

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7pm

Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • Apr. 17-18 (LSS Proper)

St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Feb 26 Teaching - **Intercessory & Golden Years**
Encounter with Jesus - **Solo Parents**

Mar 06* Christian Maturity I – **LSS 31-32**
Encounter with Jesus – **LSS 33**
Shepherds Training – **LSS 29-30**

Mar 12 Teaching - **Youth**

Mar 19 Teaching - **Service Formation, Mark 10 & John 6**
Christian Maturity I - **Singles**

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING FEB. 19, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,542	25,715
Expenses	3,491	23,065
Surplus/(Deficit)	51	2,650
Haiti Relief Fund		1,407

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJ CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Mar. 5-7 • Union Catholic HS, Scotch Plains, NJ

Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

DLC MEETING

Mar. 13 • 1-5pm @ St. Mary's

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

Mar.13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall, South Orange, NJ

Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.

Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

Read the bible daily. Spend time with the Lord.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 9

Bulletin Edition

Mar. 5, 2010

NEWS

Man "Is Precious Dust in God's Eyes"

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 17, 2010 (Zenit.org).- from the address given by Benedict XVI on Ash Wednesday at the general audience in Paul VI Hall. In English, he said:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the Church's Lenten journey towards Easter. Lent reminds us, as Saint Paul exhorts, "not to accept the grace of God in vain" (cf. 2 Cor: 6-1), but to recognize that today the Lord calls us to penance and spiritual renewal. This call to conversion is expressed in the two formulae used in the rite of the imposition of ashes.

The first formula -- "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" -- echoes Jesus' words at the beginning of his public ministry (cf. Mk 1:15). It reminds us that conversion is meant to be a deep and lasting abandonment of our sinful ways in order to enter into a living relationship with Christ, who alone offers true freedom, happiness and fulfillment.

The second, older formula -- "Remember, man, that you are dust and to dust you shall return" -- recalls the poverty and death which are the legacy of Adam's sin, while pointing us to the resurrection, the new life and the freedom brought by Christ, the Second Adam.

This Lent, through the practice of prayer and penance, and an ever more fruitful reception of the Church's sacraments, may we make our way to Easter with hearts purified and renewed by the grace of this special season...Upon all of you I invoke God's blessings of joy and peace!

Make the Covenant News part of your Covenant Life

Five Second Reflection

Someday, we all will have to apply for a job in heaven.
What's on your resume today?

COUNSELS

Steadfastness

WORD: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

THEME: Christ's call for repentance exhorts us not to fall back into sin.

ORDER: "...I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish..." (Lk 13:5)

REFLECTION:

Everyone was glued to CNN 24/7 over the weekend as a terrifying 8.8 magnitude earthquake hit Chile said to be 800 times stronger than the one that struck Haiti. Seismologists sent warnings of potentially deadly tsunami to 53 countries along the Pacific Rim including Hawaii Japan and the Philippines. The whole world was again shaken, as one calamity after another is unleashed upon various parts of the globe. The series of disasters—from raging flood waters to furious snow storms and recurring earthquakes—instill dread in our hearts that we might be in line for the next catastrophe.

Given this scenario, as disciples of Christ, what are we to do? Could this be the Nineveh of our own time and generation, a modern day scenario reenacting Jonah's journey through the city of Nineveh announcing, "Every man shall turn from his evil way... God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish." (Jonah 3: 8-9). In today's gospel of Luke, Jesus Himself gives a stern warning, "But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did." (Luke 13:3). Jesus, as we know, was referring to their souls and the need to repair the harm done to their covenant relationship with God.

In the same gospel, Jesus demonstrates the enduring mercy of a loving God through the parable of the fig tree. Despite our unworthiness and lack of fruitfulness, our merciful God offers another chance and opportunity to make amends, "...Leave it for this year also and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future," (Luke 13:8). Our lives may be barren like the fig tree, and weakened because sin prevents us from producing any *continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"He redeems your life from destruction; he crowns you with kindness and compassion." (Ps 103:4)

“Sorry, No Reservations Accepted; By Invitation Only!”

“Hello! Is this the Heavenly Kingdom? This is Mr. Rich & Famous, I would like to make a reservation for a party of two, preferably seats closest to the Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ!”

In the world that we live in, it is a given that the “rich” and “famous” people usually get the “special” fringe benefits as power comes with it. Just imagine if this preferential treatment is allowed when entering the heavenly kingdom and it would have been too easy to attain salvation without exerting any effort because of power and connections.

In Matthew 20:21-22, **“Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, ‘What do you wish?’ She answered him, ‘Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.’”** In these verses, it sounded like James and John’s mother was aggressively making a special request from Jesus but it is simply just a motherly love of just trying to look for the best interest for her (2) sons. It didn’t matter if she made this request in front of the other ten apostles which had become indignant to both James and John, for as long as she gets her message across. This type of parental behavior existed then and exists now, especially when parents go out of their way to use their connections in order for their children to get into the most exclusive schools, clubs or even to the future work place.

“Jesus said in reply, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?’ They said to him, ‘We can.’” (Mt 20:22). Jesus’ response was not actually towards the mother but more so to the (2) sons, James and John, who both knew that it is not just a simple task of drinking the cup but in order for one to share in the glory, there must be a necessity of involvement in Jesus’ sufferings, the endurance of tribulation and suffering for the gospel.

“My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left (this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” (Mt 20:23). The metaphor of drinking the cup is used in the Old Testament to refer to acceptance of the destiny assigned by God. In Jesus’ case, this involves divine judgment on sin that Jesus (the innocent one) is to expiate on behalf of the guilty. Drink the cup..His baptism? This is to be his crucifixion and death for the salvation of the human race.

Now going back again to the original request of James & John’s mother, Jesus did not reply with a simple “YES” or “NO” but left the authority of assigning places of honor in the kingdom ONLY reserved to God.

“Sorry, No Reservations Accepted! By Invitation Only!”

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

ROOTED IN FAITH

In the poem “Trees” Joyce Kilmer wrote in the end, “Poems are made by fools like me but only God can make a tree.” Indeed the tree is one of God’s greatest creations because of its many uses. It symbolizes life, strength and vitality.

The person who dwells happily in God’s ways is likened to a tree, abundant, fruit-bearing, and healthy with leaves that do not wither. But what makes this tree strong? The roots keep the tree anchored to the ground. In our Christian life, our faith serves as the roots of our existence. Without strong and healthy roots, the tree cannot survive storms or droughts. Likewise, in the absence of a well-founded faith we won’t be able to withstand and overcome the challenges and struggles that we face in our daily lives.

So how do we keep our faith strong?

Our God is a magnificent God. True to His promise that He will never forsake us, He plants and cultivates His trees near streams of waters so their roots will have a continuous supply of water to let them live. God never fails. He provides us with all the resources we need to be able to sustain our spiritual growth. He has given us the BLD community to guide us in our walk with Him. He has surrounded us with people who love, support and pray for us. Our faith is being strengthened by reflecting on God’s words, true witnessing of God’s unconditional love, finding joy in reaching out to others, and spreading God’s mission to the world.

God’s blessings abounds us whatever our life circumstances may be. But do we take full advantage of these blessings? Like roots, do we absorb these blessings and make them nourish and enrich our spiritual life? Or do we choose to be like chaff, becoming dry and withered, easily getting separated and blown away?

God intends for us to prosper in our journey with Him but in order to attain this purpose we need to open our hearts and allow the Spirit to work in us and through us. Now is the right time to invest on building that strong foundation of our roots. We have to deepen our faith so that no matter how fierce and mighty the obstacles in life are, we remain standing and victorious with the Lord after the storm has passed.

Lord, make me like a fruit-bearing tree as I mature in faith that I may give life to those who dwell in hopelessness, give strength to those weakened by tribulations, give shelter to those who are lost and need to find their way back home to You. This I pray, Amen.

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. Reflect on your own life and ask yourself, are you are a barren fig tree?
2. What do you need to do during this season to show the Lord your repentant heart? How can you sustain your repentant spirit without falling back into sin again?

*Stewardship
It's a way of life!*

Further Paul Speaks

The Blessed Trinity, Framework of our Faith

In my last article I tried to open up the deepest mystery of our Christian faith, the Blessed Trinity. It is not only the focus of our faith and the goal of our prayer life, but it is also, you might say, the skeleton outline for ALL the liturgical seasons of the church year. I mention this explicitly now during the season of Lent when our focus is on the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus. We must remember that it is the Father who sent Jesus for his mission of redemption. If Jesus is the source of our redemption, the Holy Spirit is the empowerment that enabled Jesus to accomplish that task. All three persons are then involved in the work of salvation.

The Christmas season celebrates the Incarnation. It is precisely because the Son of God took flesh that our flesh is no longer a barrier to a relationship with this very spiritual and invisible God. This is true even if there had been no reality of sin. The Incarnation and the appearance of God in the flesh now have made the relationship between God and man a definite possibility. The flesh is no longer in the way, because now if we connect with the fleshly Jesus, we have access to the whole Trinity.

As much as we rejoice in the work of Jesus who became one of us and removed the barrier of human nature, the reality is that our human nature is sinful and wounded and in need of the further work of redemption. In the Incarnation the barrier of nature is removed, but we still need the further work of Jesus to remove the barrier of sin. If there were no sin, either from our first parents or from our own personal willfulness, there would be no need for the cross or the resurrection. But as it is, we now can see the work of Jesus to be two-fold: to remove the barrier of nature and the deeper barrier of sin.

It is fascinating to realize that the Lord used the very same nature that got us into trouble in the first place, to restore us to friendship with God. We fell in Adam. We rise in Christ, the new Adam. In beautiful poetry, the Church compares the wood of the tree of knowledge in the garden of paradise with the wood of the cross. The wood of that first tree was the occasion of the Fall. The wood of the cross is the occasion for our Restoration. As we go through life stumbling often, we never give up, because the whole blessed Trinity is inviting us over and over again to turn to Jesus and experience redemption and freedom.

“No other way could have been more fit to rescue us from despair than the assurance of God’s love- the love for sinners who can have no merits that are not His gifts. This love, by which we are ‘justified in His blood’, ‘reconciled by His death’, is not the act of one Person of the Trinity, but the eternal love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... There is a ‘trinity of faith’, when things believed are held in the memory, and recalled to thought by the act of will; and if their truth be accepted and loved, there is a life ‘according to the inward trinity.’” St Augustine of Hippo



May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week

COUNSEL (from page 1)

fruit. But the Lord gives us ample chances through His amazing grace, to be nurtured and cared for, until we can come around and show signs of producing fruit in time. He does not want to blame us but wants to save us from being cut down and cast into eternal damnation. Through His infinite patience, God offers forgiveness to repentant souls. God’s mercy and love make it possible for us to turn away from sin and live a new life. But we need to cultivate the seed that has been planted in us, so we can flourish and bear fruit. Our community, Bukas Loob Sa Diyos provides fertile ground and ample opportunities to nurture our spiritual lives through teachings and formation programs, praise and worship, mission work and other spiritual activities, all designed to fertilize the soil of our hearts and enable us to flourish and grow spiritually. As true disciples of Christ, we never stop changing, growing and learning everyday until one day, we reach our final destination.

Nearly three weeks into Lent, the urgent call to repentance is clear. The Greek word for repentance - metanoia - implies a change of heart, a spiritual conversion, a turning around and turning back, in this case, to God. Lent, which runs for approximately forty days, is time well-spent checking the state of our own soul, reflecting, re-evaluating and renewing ourselves. It is God’s primary attribute to have mercy upon us as long as we are steadfast in repenting of our sins and have a firm resolve to sin no more.

Pope Benedict XVI’s Lenten message for the year 2010 is noteworthy. While focusing on the theme of justice, he nevertheless dwells on the significance of conversion, *“Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one’s own need – the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship.”* To elucidate the point, he highlights the importance of humility as a virtue to live by, most especially during the Lenten season. The Pope especially reminds us of the need to humble ourselves, to make a good confession and receive communion during this season, *“...Humility is required to accept that I need Another to free me from ‘what is mine,’ to give me gratuitously ‘what is His.’ This happens especially in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.”*

Amidst the uncertainties we daily confront in the face of global calamities that may come our way without warning, it is reassuring to hold on to God’s promise in the book of Psalms, ***“He redeems your life from destruction; he crowns you with kindness and compassion.”*** (Ps 103:4). Lent is the time to prepare ourselves, that no matter what happens, we may remain unfazed by the wrath of nature. And when that moment finally comes, we shall neither perish nor be cut down like the barren fig tree.

Prayer: Oh Lord, during this season of Lent, give me the grace to truly repent of all my sins and be reconciled with You and my neighbors. I know that You are a God of second chances and ***continued on page 4***

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish



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Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word.
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ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church • Contacts: Ruben & Luz
Amarante • 908-810-1213 • Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

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are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please
note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up
must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will
be responsible for their children's safety.

*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Mar 13 • Singles Ministry • Contacts: Manny/Arlene
Mangalanzo singles@bldnewark.com

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Mar 27** • Word Ministry
Contacts: Carlito/Arlene Claricia word@bldnewark.com
Audie & Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take
place every 4th **Friday** at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord
with the Community through an article (450 words)
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CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

Mar.13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall, South Orange, NJ
Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith
and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

DLC MEETING

April 10, 2010 • 1-5pm @ St. Mary's Library

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY RETREAT

Please reserve **Apr. 24, 2010, 8-6pm** for our next
Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted
disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be
no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with
this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

COUNSEL (from page 3)

You are intent on saving me. Make this a special time
for me to be purified and enlightened that I may bear
fruit and be a living witness of Your love and grace.
And as I renew my life, keep me close to your bosom
that I may never fall away from you ever again. In Jesus
mighty name I pray, Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Have a regular conversion of heart by attending
daily masses, reconciliation with God through the
sacraments, regular visitation to the Blessed
Sacrament, reading, studying and living God's word.
2. Revive Luke 15 program under pastoral ministry to
seek and minister to the stray and lost members of
the community.
3. Implement pastoral counseling program as
prescribed by ECSL.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Basic Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 13, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 14, Sun., 7am-7pm
Tentative venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret
Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

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LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)
St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Mar 06*	Christian Maturity I – LSS 31-32 Encounter with Jesus – LSS 33 Shepherds Training – LSS 29-30
Mar 12	Teaching - Youth
Mar 19	Teaching - Service, Mark 10 & John 6 Christian Maturity I - Singles
Mar 20*	Christian Maturity I – LSS 31-32 Seven Anointings – Covenanted Disciples Aspirants Supplemental – Up to LSS 29
Mar 26	Teaching - Intercessory Formation, Youth & Golden Years Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - Solo Parents

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING FEB. 19, 2010

	Actual	YTD
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Expenses	-	23,065
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	2,650
Haiti Relief Fund		1,407

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

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 10

Bulletin Edition

March 12, 2010

Thirty-Seven Teenagers Baptized by the Holy Spirit

Praise the Lord! 37 teenagers were baptized by the Holy Spirit during the most recent Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar #15. YLSS #15 was held at St. Mary's during the weekend of March 5-7. The 37 lambs were commissioned by God to spread His love on earth and to grow in their faith. These lambs were: Ryan Abarabar, Kyle Abinales, Fiona Capil, Josef Catalan, Marianne Claricia, Jethro Cruz, Marc Densing, Elise Espinosa, Wilfred Estiler, Katrina Fernando, Al-Jose Flores, Jesraye Flores, Michael Gallagher, Precy Rose Gotico, Aaron Guiang, Darren Guiang, Irbeth Hate, Nicholas Jose, Kirstein Labaso, Cristina Larobis, Justin Lucero, Liberty Mayo, Jeanelle Nacion, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Kay Panaguiton, Alex Paredes, Johnson Pham, April Ramirez, Dom Reyes, Adrianna Reyes, Anthony Rinon, Robert Rivera, Jasmin Rodriguez, Marvee SanAgustin, Nathaniel Tomkowski, Meldrick Umahon, and Katie Yanguas. The lambs felt the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the weekend and enjoyed praising God with arms high and hearts abandoned through prayer and song. The Pastoral Team for the weekend included Spiritual Director Father Paul Lehman and youth members Allen Garcia, Coleen Atienza, Kody Tolentino, and JV Reyes and the Raagas family as sharers. Shepherds and auxies from both the Youth and the Singles Ministry, in addition to several adult auxies, generously offered their time and talents to make this weekend a success. We praise and thank God for such a successful weekend!

BLD NEWARK'S NEW COMMITTED DISCIPLES

Abroquena, Olga Marie; Banzuela, Susan; Bautista, Rameses; Blankas, Magdalena; Calara, Norma; Delos Reyes, Jude & Maricel; Fandino, Tomasita; Leano, Remilee; Mariano, Clair; McSpedon, Mike & Christine; Mijares, Marcelo & Michelle; Navarro, Gerry & Jazz; Ortiz, Efraim & Wanda; Pastor, Pete & Tess; Pedutem, Linda; Rodriguez, George & Sarita; San Agustin, Mary Ann; Subida, Fe; Trinidad, George & Gina; Vicari, Gladys; Zafra, Marcel

*"From His fullness we have all received,
grace in place of grace..."* John 1:16

COUNSELS THE PRODIGAL SONS

WORD: Jos 5:9a,10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21;
Lk 15:1-3,11-32

THEME: Christ's call for repentance exhorts us to be reconciled with God and one another.

ORDER: 1. Be reconciled to God and one another.
2. Be ambassadors of Christ.

REFLECTION:

A distinguishing mark of a disciple of Christ is his or her willingness to forgive and to seek reconciliation regardless of the circumstance. In conveying this, we are led to one of the best known parables of Jesus, the Prodigal Son. His story gives a pure, condensed wisdom about God's unlimited love, about ourselves and about life as it provides a model on forgiveness.

The parable begins with the story of the younger son. We learn that he asked his father to advance his inheritance then traveled to a foreign country where he spent all his money on foolish and sinful pleasures. There, two disasters struck. He ran out of money, then ran into a famine so jobs were hard to find. Hitting rock bottom, he came to his senses. He decided to go home, apologize to God and to his father for his sins but to his surprise, his father did not want to hear the apology. His father did not care about the hurt done him. The only thing the father cared about was that his son, who once was lost, now was home where he belonged.

The story of the older brother was quite different but it's clear that he too was a prodigal son. The older one argued that the young wayward brother did not deserve the welcome accorded to him. The story suddenly becomes a tale about two prodigal sons.

The father replied that the older son had absolute security and his respect. "Be forgiving and generous-hearted. Your brother was dead and has risen again." Rejoice for his return to grace and this home of love. Yet he remained unforgiving, no matter how much his brother repented.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

*"When the poor one called out, the Lord heard
and from all his distress he saved him." Psalm 34:7*

O GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER

"Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity--greedy, dishonest, adulterous--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former." (Lk 18:10-14)

The sin of Self-Righteousness can be the most insidious sin of all. Why? Because people who are self-righteous don't even realize they are. How can they, when the word itself implies that they think they're right, how can they then think otherwise.

I have no doubt that all of us are familiar with the parable of the Pharisee & the lowly tax collector. I also have no doubt that everyone will identify with the tax collector, not the Pharisee. I know I do, without a doubt, especially after being with BLD for so many years.

How many times have I told family and friends that thanks to BLD I am now living a more God-centered life. Unlike other people I know, who have not changed at all, still caught up in their old ways, still "sinners". Don't these people realize that joining BLD is the best thing that could ever happen to them?

How many times have I told myself that I feel so blessed that I found BLD, a community of believers, just like me. As a result, now I only go to BLD "parties and other social events" and only with my fellow-believers. Why continue to associate with those people when I have BLD?

How many times have I told myself that I feel so blessed unlike some of my ME classmates who no longer go to Praise & Worship and seem to have drifted away while my wife & I have been going faithfully all these years. How many times have I told myself that I feel so blessed because I do so much for my ministry while others don't even make the effort to show up. Don't these people realize that this is all for the Lord?

And how many times have I wondered during the mass collection why some people don't give more than they do when I know for sure they can. Don't these people realize that this goes to support the works of the Church?

I use to be like "these people" but after BLD, not anymore. Yes, I am proud to say, brothers & sisters, that I am now His humble servant. I am like that lowly tax collector...or is it the Pharisee?

The point of the parable of course, is that there is such a fine line between someone who thinks he is being a humble servant and someone who truly is as to be almost indiscernible that it will take a special kind of vigilance and spiritual maturity *continued* →

SMALL BUT EXTRAORDINARY

In 2 Kings 5:11-15 we recall the story of Naaman, a Syrian leper, who on the advice of a Jewish slave girl traveled to Israel and was cured. *"If only my lord would present himself to the prophet in Samaria..., he would cure him..."* she said. (2 Kgs 5:3) Naaman was fortunate to have someone with such faith in his home. Her faith became his, and God rewarded it by curing his leprosy. But first God tested his faith and obedience.

Naaman traveled with an entourage to the home of the prophet Elisha. Upon his arrival, Elisha did not greet him personally, but merely sent a message telling him to wash seven times in the muddy waters of the Jordan. Naaman's first reaction was anger. He came all this way and Elisha did not even bother to see him...instead he told him to wash repeatedly in murky water. "How ridiculous and humiliating!" he thought; "the mountain springs back home are much better."

Why didn't Elisha greet him personally? Consider how our Lord treated the Canaanite woman seeking His help in Mt 15:26. *"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."* Seems harsh, but it was God way of honoring His covenant with His chosen people. Out of love, Jesus tested her faith that He might honor it before all people for all time.

Similarly, in His wisdom and love, God tested Naaman's faith, so He might honor him and use him as an example for all time—despite his flaws. In the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus did exactly that when He said, *"there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman, the Syrian"* (Lk 4:27).

God's ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. God's folly is wiser than human wisdom. God brings us low and breaks us down in order to raise us up and use us for the good of others and reveal His glory. Because we are precious in His eyes, He allows us to experience the crucible of humiliation so that He may refine our faith until it is pure as finest gold.

Naaman, like St. Bernadette, did something small and ridiculous in humble obedience. In response, God did something extraordinary and miraculous! Bernadette obeyed Mother Mary and washed in the dirt amidst public ridicule. The fruit of her obedience was a healing spring with 67 confirmed miracles! Do we see our humiliation as a gift through which God accomplishes His plans and reveals His glory? Do we obey God when His way differs from ours?

on our part not to be like the Pharisee. Unfortunately, the more we grow spiritually the more susceptible we become, just like that Pharisee.

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

THE YOUNGER SON

There are two seasons of the church year that are especially important to me. Advent--that short but intense season of expectation and anticipation just before Christmas and Lent--this season now, a time of lengthening shadows and strengthening light--these forty days before the resurrection of Earth on Easter morning. I've come to love these seasons.

We turn this morning to the extraordinary parable of the Prodigal Son, our Lenten theme for this year. Perhaps it is the story of Lent that best communicates all the important elements of life in relationship--grief, betrayal, love, forgiveness, compassion, loneliness, jealousy, lust, generosity and trust. It's the kind of story that goes deep and wide all at once and it should be revisited throughout life, since it has tremendous capacity to unveil our human psyches and heal our wounds over and over again.

The younger son is driven by curiosity and a desire for freedom to undertake a quest in a far away country. He is both anxious and precocious, wanting to leave home early even though he risks his father's life and health in order to achieve his own freedom. In those days for a young man to leave home and demand his inheritance upon leaving was as if he was wishing his father dead. Normally he would have no right to his inheritance until death and asking for it early was basically saying, "*Hand it over! To hell with you!*"

But we are dealing here with something more than an adolescent rebellion, defiant behavior, or rejection and betrayal of all that has been freely given. Some people, like the prodigal, simply have to risk the alienation of taking a journey into a far country in order to have any chance of coming home again. Think, for a minute about the dutiful son who remained at home. We know that he was resentful when the prodigal returned home. Is it possible that he remained home not out of duty but because he was afraid of risk? And that he envied and resented his more adventurous and free-spirited brother?

Who do you think knew more about the spiritual life, about risk, failure, repentance and forgiveness, the prodigal or his homesteading brother? My money is on the prodigal.

It is not difficult to see the spiritual alienation and dilemma of our country and ourselves in this parable. We have been an immensely adventurous and creative nation. It is not accidental that we have ascended to a position where we might be the most powerful nation in the world. But some of our creativity has become destructive. We lead the world in the creation of weapons and the pollution of the atmosphere. We are truly exhausting our inheritance. We are a lot like the younger son. And if we are not careful, we may be left friendless and alienated from the rest of the world.

The question now is how do we come home again?

Like the younger son, much of our culture needs to return home. We need to discover and embrace our true relationship with the Creator of Creation and Mother Earth, with Sister Peace and Brother Reconciliation. A return for us could mean rediscovering the legacy of the holy, a return from entitlement, narcissism and self-destruction. We've got to get on the long road toward forgiveness, reconciliation and deep joy in reunion.

In our story, the father, a surrogate *Continued on pg 4*

COUNSEL (from page 1)

The parable of the prodigal sons tells the story of each son but doesn't tell us if the older son eventually relented or how the younger son lived in response to his father's welcoming love.

Jesus invites us to ask ourselves, which brother are we? The truth is that most of us exhibit the characteristics of both the younger and older brother. Now, which are we most like? Do we relate more to the younger son, who found his way back and sought reconciliation with his Father? The younger son learned an important lesson while starving in a foreign land. He learned about priorities. He learned that his father was a life-giver.

St. Paul in tonight's epistle preaches that we should stay free from the trappings of the world and to dedicate ourselves to the Lord because the primary reason for living is to bring glory to God. The world and all its things will pass away, but we who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will endure forever.

Or, are we the older son, jealous that somebody else is receiving God's love? Do we resent God for being loving and forgiving?

Our membership in BLD calls us through a ministry of service and reconciliation -- to be Christ's ambassadors sent to bring His message of reconciliation to the world. This means that we must serve as examples of forgiveness and reconciliation. BLD will not fulfill its purpose for existence if we, its members, are not given to reconciliation. Perhaps Jesus left the story of the Prodigal Son unfinished to challenge us to decide how we would respond? Human beings have emotions and will become angry and hurt one another. This is what it means to be human. It is okay to become angry. The question is, can we forgive?

As disciples of Christ, we have an even greater reason to forgive. Throughout His public life and ministry, Jesus witnessed to what it means to be a forgiving person. He counseled Peter to be far more forgiving than Peter would ever have considered: to forgive seven times seventy-seven times (Mt 18:21-22), a metaphor for infinite forgiveness. No matter how often we are hurt, our challenge is always to forgive. Jesus not only modeled what it meant to be a forgiving person, he continually taught, especially through parables, the necessity of forgiveness.

God offers us His covenant love that desires to reconcile us with Him and to begin a new life, *to become new creations of the Almighty Father, and be Ambassadors of Christ*. Jesus loved and saved and we are called to do no less. We have a God whose reconciling love remains deep, that even in our darkness and anger, He gives this promise in Psalm 34:7 that "*When the poor one called out, the Lord heard and from all his distress he saved him.*"

DIRECTION

Be imitators of Christ in all your thoughts, words and deeds.

THE YOUNGER SON (from page 3)

for God, shows unconditional love and forgiveness for the prodigal. This is where our condition differs radically. God may forgive, but nature does not. In our alienation from the natural world that we are fast destroying by our hyper-creativity, economic mania and consumerism, we will not be healed easily or quickly. In matters of God's Creation, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of Creation.

What would it mean for us to return, to come home again? It would mean a return to our second innocence. This second innocence and aliveness is reached through making conscious choices for the life of all creation and relationships. We could begin by acknowledging that we have abused Creation--and deciding that we will tread more gently and nonviolently upon the earth. We could acknowledge that we have used violence and war to settle disputes. We could confess that we have ignored the poor, the lost, the refugee among us in favor of the beautiful and the rich and famous.

A return home is a return to the Beloved and a state of belovedness. We come home, by first returning to ourselves and then returning to a life filled with compassion even as we recognize the compassionate embrace of the Beloved. South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu believes that forgiveness and reconciliation is a human necessity--a person is a person only through other people. It is important that we do all that we can to restore our human and natural relationships. Without relationships, we shrivel into our own shells and die. The younger son experienced that shriveling and he "*came to himself*" as the story tells us.

Here are some questions for you:

- ✓ Have you found yourself wandering in a distant country, alienated from yourself and God's creation?
- ✓ Do you need to come home to any part of your life?
- ✓ Do you believe that the Beloved is waiting for you? And is filled with compassion for you as you walk up the road?

As Christians, we can embrace a complex view of our authentic forgiveness--by not simply accepting it and then doing nothing. We must not rob the world of hope and the possibility of transformation. New courage is essential if we are to face the evils of the world and struggle against them. Fresh faith and authentic forgiveness calls us to envision a world in which we may all live free from unnecessary pain and violence. Our faith calls upon us to work toward a world where all are beloved and welcomed home.

The younger son received unconditional love and authentic forgiveness--new life at last was possible.

Now, what is the rest of the story? Amen.

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MARCH 5, 2009

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,644	29,559
Expenses	1,366	24,432
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,278	5,127

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Advanced Prayer Counseling Seminar

Mar. 20, Sat., 7am-10:30pm • Mar. 21, Sun., 7am-7am
Venue: Radisson Inn, Carteret

Contact: Sam & Rory Olaso samrory@ymail.com

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)
St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Mar 12 Teaching – Youth
Encounter with Jesus – Solo Parents

Mar 19 Teaching – Amazing Grace, Service
Formation, Mark 10 & John 6
Christian Maturity I - Singles

Mar 20* Christian Maturity I – LSS 31-32
Aspirants Supplemental – Up to LSS 29
Excellence In Worship - Community

Mar 26 Teaching - Intercessory Formation,
Youth & Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Mar 13 • Singles Ministry • Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo singles@bldnewark.com



May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC MEETING

April 10, 2010 @ 1-5pm • St. Mary's Library

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY RETREAT

Please reserve **Apr. 24, 2010, 8-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



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March 19, 2010



Teaching on Exorcism

by
Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea

Our spiritual director, Fr. Paul Lehman has requested our DCS to allow Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea, the official Exorcist of the diocese of Madrid to talk to our community on **Friday, April 30, 2010**. Fr. Paul's warning of overt satanic manifestation is being felt throughout the world, hence the importance of such teaching.

The DCS has granted Fr. Paul's request. Singles, Youth and Solo parents are encouraged to attend. For obvious reasons, Mark 10 and John 6 are excluded.

In lieu of Adult worship we will have a Eucharistic celebration at **8:00 PM sharp**. The talk is set from 9PM-10:30 PM.

José Antonio Fortea (born in Barbastro, Spain in 1968), priest and specialized theologian in Demonology. He received the degree of licentiate in the field of History of the Church at the faculty of Theology of Comillas. In 1998 he defended his thesis entitled Exorcism in the Present Age under the direction of the Secretary of the Commission for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Spain Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He combines his work as a theologian with his activity as pastor of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, in Anchuelo (Madrid). Author of several books about Demonology, demonic possession and exorcism every year he gives lectures in dioceses and universities around the World. He carries out his ministry of praying for persons who claim to be afflicted by the Devil in Our Lady of Zulema Parish in the diocese of Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain). Because of the lack of exorcists, cases come all around the nation and other countries to his church and with a general permission of his bishop he prays for them.

COUNSELS Etched in Stone or Written on the Sand

WORD: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126: 1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn. 8:8-11

THEME: Christ's call for repentance exhorts us not to condemn others.

ORDER: *"Go and from now on, do not sin anymore"* (John 8:11)

REFLECTION:

What is the key to God's kingdom in heaven, or happiness on earth? Moses gave the Israelites ten keys in the form of the 10 Commandments. Christ made it easier for us by giving us one master key that opens all the doors to lifelong bliss and eternal peace by commanding us in Luke 10:27 *"to love God above all, and our fellow man as we would love ourselves"*.

To possess this key we must know love in its purest form as exemplified by Christ through His unconditional COMPASSION and FORGIVENESS (this week's central community value) towards those who persecuted him. Indeed, these are the pre-conditions to finding true peace within us and with God. We should always bear in mind that the guiding principle of our community is: "Love through forgiveness and compassion".

Like many other communities, this community flourishes because we continuously rediscover the true nature of love. This is the same love that Christ spoke about in His parable of the father who forgave his prodigal son and his older son's jealousy towards his brother. Through this community, we find hope. We "re-learn" how to be compassionate and to forgive.

Christ's attitude towards His persecutors compared to that of man's is *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Neither do I condemn you" (John 8:11)

Treating Offenders as Gentiles and Tax Collectors

What did the Lord Jesus mean when, in His teaching on fraternal correction, He said *“And if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector”*? (Mt 18:17b)

In Jesus’ time, Gentiles were considered unclean and tax collectors were considered traitors and outcasts. Is this what He meant, to treat a fellow member of the church or the community who sins against us as unclean and an outcast?

We’ve seen instances in community where the first three steps of fraternal correction are taken, namely: going directly to the brother, taking along one or two witnesses, and telling it to the church. But if after all that, the offending brother still refuses to listen, there is a tendency to give up, *“From now on, I consider this offending brother as a Gentile and a tax collector. I will ignore him, treat him as if they never existed, even if we cross paths on the way to community worship.”* The verse explaining the fourth step in the fraternal correction process is sometimes used as the justification to resist further reconciliation efforts with the offending brother.

Again, what could the Lord have meant by said verse? Is it possible that He meant the opposite, which is to love them, to forgive them, and not to give up on them? Why do I say that?

Let’s examine the Lord’s example with regards to Gentiles and tax collectors. Did He turn His back on them? Did He not love them and reach out to them? Did He not forgive and save them? Did He not bring them to the fold?

Examine the context when this teaching was given. The people the Lord was teaching were His disciples, those who have heeded His call and followed Him. When He said, treat them as Gentiles

and tax collectors, the Lord could not have meant, follow the custom of the day. The Lord would surely have meant, treat them as I have taught you by my example.

Note that several verses later in Mt 18:21-22, Jesus taught Peter to forgive not seven times, but seventy seven times.

One point that we should add is this: the Lord will never exclude anyone from His mercy- no matter how sinful they may be. We are the ones who exclude ourselves from God by our refusal to repent and to reconcile. So step 4 of the reconciliation process can be viewed as we (the unwilling to reconcile) treating our own selves as Gentiles and tax collectors in relation to God and to the community.

Recalling the parable of the prodigal son, the Father always waited expectantly for the return of His son. At the sight of the prodigal son, the Father ran to him, embraced him and kissed him before the son acknowledged his sins to the Father! To the Father, the journey of the prodigal son back to Him was enough expression of repentance!

We should emulate the Father’s readiness to forgive, even in the face of stubbornness and repeated transgressions. While we do, let us remember not to put ourselves in His place, for He alone is without sin.

“Let the offending brother be like the *continued >>*

My Lord, My Judge, I Entrust My Cause

“Yet, I like a trusting lamb led to slaughter, had not realized that they were hatching plots against me: ‘Let us destroy the tree in its vigor; let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will be spoken no more.’ But, you O Lord of hosts, O just Judge, searcher of mind and heart, Let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause!” (Jeremiah 12: 19-20)

It was year when I finally surrendered all to the Lord! It was the most painful time of my life. It was the most enlightening time of my life. It was that special moment during the Family Encounter reunion group prayer when the Lord held my arm and spoke to me and said, *“Your husband will be healed. Do not worry.”* The Lord carried me as I entrusted my case to Him. Like trusting lambs, though we knew that the worst is yet to come, the Lord gave us the strength to carry the cross, only to be transfigured for his glory and honor. Though it felt like we were being slaughtered and plots hatched before us, we held on to His word and believed that all will be healed through prayers. Not only was there physical healing but most importantly we experienced spiritual healings from all walks of life.

What a privilege it was to carry the cross that enabled many followers of Christ to be strengthened with their own faith, to see many unbelievers praying with sincerity of heart and to experience Christian unity in the midst of despair and trial that only the Great Healer can provide. Learning from this experience, it is only through God’s grace and love that we are here today. Each of us has a mission before entering his heavenly kingdom someday. Our mission to love him, to serve Him, and to know Him each day is a gift from God only we can open as we open our hearts to Him, our Great Physician.

Like Jeremiah, the son of the priest, Hilkihah, born in Anathoth and who was called early to carry out prophetic mission in 626 BC during the reign of Josiah, we, too, can be used as instruments of God’s word to evangelize not only to Christians but to all people of His great love, power, mercy, and grace for all to experience his presence as we surrender to His care. My Lord and my Judge, I entrust my cause to You!

.....

prodigal son who returns in repentance; let the offended brother be like the older brother who listens to His Father’s counsel to forgive and to celebrate with Him.

The work of reconciliation is the Lord’s work, and thus the invitation in reality comes from Him. One who participates in the process of reconciliation participates in the divine work of forgiving, healing and saving.

If we want to really understand the Lord’s teaching, we must look into both His words and His deeds, into the entirety of His life.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

as disparate as heaven and earth. Whereas Christ promptly forgives regardless of the gravity of His enemies' offense, man bears grudges for a long time. We have a phrase in Tagalog for this kind of attitude – "ita-taga sa bato". Man has this propensity to "etch in stone" his fellowman's sins against him. Thus it remains indelible and is passed on through generations. On the other hand, God writes our transgressions in the shifting sands of the desert where the wind quickly erases it forever.

We are now deep into the Lenten Season, the holiest days of our faith and approaching the Easter Triduum, which is the fulcrum of the Church's liturgical year. The sacred rites of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the solemn Easter Vigil, help us relive the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Throughout this period, the central message which is the essence of God's love is COMPASSION and FORGIVENESS. It is very important that we focus on these two virtues on which love is founded. Fr. George Morelli, a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, defines forgiveness as "...ending resentment, indignation or anger when an offense has either subjectively or objectively occurred. But most importantly, it is to love God as God loves." This might sound very easy if put in the context of simply uttering, "I forgive you, please forgive me." But why does unforgiveness towards others persist? The answer lies in the character of our spirit.

As we have learned in our community's teachings on Inner Healing, our spirits could either be "wounded" or "broken". A wounded spirit is one that is constantly hurting, a spirit that focuses on himself and his injuries. It is a negative spirit that can only find fault even in the best of situations. It is a spirit that is suspicious and blames others. On the other hand, a broken spirit is a spirit that has learned to accept its own limitations and sins. It is, therefore, humble and contrite. A broken spirit finds no need for problems to be explained, but instead seeks to find God's wisdom even when persecuted.

In these contrasting definitions, we can see that if we possess a wounded spirit, forgiving those who hurt us will be very difficult, for our inner miseries will prevent us from moving forward. It is even harder to forgive ourselves for our own shortcomings and sins.

A broken spirit's character of resignation, contrite and humility allows it to move on. "***I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind, but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus***" (Phil 3:13-14). It is this willingness to move forward that allows a broken spirit to look at life the way God wants us to see it: a life of hope and promise, a life where He is always present, showering us with His love.

The first step to forgiving those ***Continued >>***

St. Joseph

St. Joseph seemed like an ordinary man, just like all of the other men in the world today. He was a carpenter betrothed to Mary. He was a person who was not very wealthy. He didn't always have food to eat. He was just like every other man during his time



He was mostly known as a carpenter. However, he was different. He was the foster father of Jesus, the Son of God. Joseph was a descendant of the House of King David. After marrying Mary, he found out she was already pregnant. He was going to just divorce her quietly until an angel came to him in a dream and told him that the child was sent from God. Joseph took Mary as his wife because the angel had told him to.

After Jesus' birth at Bethlehem, an angel warned Joseph and Mary about the commands of King Herod against any newborn child. The family fled to Egypt where they stayed until the angel came again to tell them of King Herod's death. They then went to the Holy Land. There, they stayed for many years.

The circumstances of Joseph's death are unknown, except that he probably died before Jesus' public ministry began and was certainly dead before the Crucifixion. Some of the later fictional narratives concerning Joseph are very unreliable and probably wrong.

In my research I couldn't find anything about St. Joseph's life before Jesus was born, therefore, I couldn't write truthfully about his birth, early life, or some of his adult life. However, the church celebrates St. Joseph the Husband of Mary on March 19th and on May 1st the church celebrates St. Joseph the Worker.

.....
who persecute you is to pray as Christ did while on His Cross. Instead of asking judgment from God for those who hurt us, we should ask for God's mercy and love: "***For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.***" (James 2:13). This is reinforced in this week's Promise: "***Neither do I condemn you.***" (John 8:11)

Our spirit can never be perfect until we have entered into God's Kingdom, but as we await the promise of Easter morning, let us pray to the Lord that He breaks through our stony heart and replace it with a heart of compassion and mercy for ourselves and for others.

DIRECTIONS

1. Be faithful to your calling as disciple of Christ.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish

St. Mary's School, Rm 104, Fridays from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word.
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)
Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213
Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children
are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please
note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up
must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will
be responsible for their children's safety.

*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Mar 27 • Word Ministry Contacts: Carlito/Arlene
Claricia word@bldnewark.com
Audie & Vulet Chong at 732-356-9056

Medical Mission

February 22-25, 2010 - Mauban, Quezon
Mosty/Ling Garcia 908-222-0550 mtg7lra@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take
place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord
with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC MEETING

Mar. 13 @ 1-5pm • St. Mary's

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

Mar.13 • 8-4pm • Seton Hall, South Orange, NJ
Offering a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith
and relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and society.
Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas • 973-562-0055

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)
St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

Make the Covenant News Part of your Covenant Life

TEACHING CALENDAR

Mar 19	Amazing Grace, Service Formation, Mark 10 & John 6 Christian Maturity I – Singles
Mar 20*	Christian Maturity I – LSS 31-32 Aspirants Supplemental– to LSS 29 Excellence in Worship-Community
Mar 26	Teaching – Intercessory Formation, Youth & Golden Years
Apr 09	Teaching - Youth
Apr 16	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 & Singles
Apr 23	Teaching - Intercessory Formation, Youth & Golden Years Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - Solo Parents
Apr 30	Intro to Intercession – ME 34 MGT - LSS 31-32 & Singles

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

*Stewardship
It's a way of life!*

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MML NN, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,608	34,167
Expenses	1,793	25,625
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,815	8,542

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*"Joseph, son of David, do not be
afraid to take Mary your wife into
your home." (Matthew 1:20)*

**May the blessing and favor of the
Lord be upon those who are
celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!**



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 12

Bulletin Edition

March 26, 2010

Archbishop Lagdameo's Easter Message

The Words of Jesus from the Tree of the Cross have brought about the fruit of the Resurrection. Good Friday necessarily leads to Easter Sunday.

The great fruit of the Tree of Good Friday is Forgiveness of our Sins. His forgiveness has brought about the resurrection or Easter Sunday of all sinners, the likes of Mary Magdalene, Peter, Augustine, Paul, and all sinners in history who tasted the fruit of repentance: peace with God.

On Good Friday and Easter, we find God sharing our darkness and suffering, in order that we may share his light and resurrection. With Easter, we can face the Good Fridays of our life. Upon the grace of Easter we continue to build our country still buried in the mire of Good Friday.

We can go back again and again to the message of Christ on the Cross to discover in it how we can lead ourselves and our country to the resurrection from poverty, hunger, ignorance, unemployment and corruption in governance. Happy Easter to one and all!

Benedict XVI: Humanity Is Made to Love

VATICAN CITY, MARCH 24, 2010 (Zenit.org). The true vocation of each person is to love, and man will find fulfillment in life only in the measure that he learns to love, says Benedict XVI.

The Pope said this in a message sent to Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, and to the participants in the 10th International Youth Forum being held in Rocca di Papa on the theme "Learn to Love."

In the letter the Pope said the theme is one that is "central to the Christian faith and life," and that the "starting point of any reflection on love is the mystery itself of God, given that the heart of Christian revelation is this: 'Deus caritas est.'"

"In his Passion, in his total self-giving, Christ has revealed to us the face of God that is Love," he said. "Contemplation of the mystery of the Trinity makes us enter into this mystery of eternal Love, which is fundamental for us."

"By the very fact that God is love and man is in his image and likeness, we

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

FINISH YOUR LIFE ON THE CROSS

WORD: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 to 23:56

THEME: Christ's call for repentance exhorts us to carry our cross daily.

ORDER: Be Christ-like in enduring suffering.

REFLECTION:

As we enter the most solemn of the weeks of our liturgical year, we are invited to reflect on the final days of the earthly life of Jesus. It is a week of violent contrasts and surprises seeing the King entered Jerusalem on a lowly ass, sold by his own disciple with a holy kiss, betrayed by his most trusted follower and abandoned by the rest of his disciples. He was accused a criminal for his innocence, mocked as a king crowned with thorns. As He became sin, He was separated from his Father for the very first time and experienced the most unimaginable wrenching pain. Even the Father in heaven suffered a self-inflicted pain seeing His only begotten Son tortured to death for sins He did not commit. This is Jesus' passion born out of love for us.

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians touched on the theology of self-giving kenosis (a Greek word for emptiness). It is the total self-emptying and surrender of one's will to God's perfect will. Jesus made himself nothing, humbled himself, and became obedient to death.

As St. Paul's letter to the Romans says, "*For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many were made righteous.*" During this holiest Lenten week, we witness the unraveling of the Paschal Mystery as the greatest love story of humankind. In Christ

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)

Beauty In the Eyes of the Lord

What is beauty? A national survey found that two-thirds of women who responded strongly agree that beauty and physical attractiveness are not synonymous. Physical attractiveness refers more to how one looks, whereas beauty is more about who a person is. Very often, traditional attributes of physical appearance such as body weight and shape, or one's sense of style become a measure of one's self worth. Hence, many base their self worth on looks, one's achievement and possessions, and on how 'perfect' one's life appears to be. The problem is those things can change and can be taken away anytime. When that happens, then one's sense of self worth also goes down the drain.

Proverbs 31:30 states, "***Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.***" One's true beauty and self worth is in the Lord. Physical beauty fades over time, but true beauty is timeless. Beauty is defined by God and God alone. He sets the standard for beauty and gives us clues throughout Scripture as to what defines a beautiful person. The key component to being beautiful is faith which determines one's happiness, confidence, dignity, and humor. Faith in a loving and forgiving God is the root of any and all manifestations of beauty.

God's concept of true beauty is His own. No person defines for God His concept of beauty. If a person is beautiful to God, he fits God's concept of beauty. Every person has the power in Christ to change his spiritual appearance. No person has to be ugly in God's sight. Jesus can change any ugly "me" into a beautiful "me" by forgiveness and by teaching one how to live. The most beautiful Christians alive at one time were ugly sinners. No one inherits spiritual beauty; everyone develops such beauty by living in Christ.

Every beautiful spiritual quality can be produced in a person who belongs to Christ and lets Christ rule his or her life. Through His Word, Jesus can teach anyone how to live. Through faith Jesus can give anyone the power to live a new life full of spiritual beauty from inside out.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of spiritual beauty that shows Your glory and goodness. I choose to stand in faith, knowing that You are working all things out for my good to be beautiful in Your eyes. Thank You for giving me an opportunity to learn, love and aspire to the beauty of Your kingdom! In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

A Call To Humility

"But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. Again he bent down and wrote on the ground'" (John 8:7-8)

If anyone of us were present during that moment, what would have been our response to Jesus? If we decided to get away from the crowd, will this demonstrate humility or shame? Then, how do we respond to the call of humility? What comes to our mind when we hear the word "humility?" Unfortunately, we often associate humility with self-depreciation- eyes cast downward, shoulders slumped, slow and hesitant walk. Often, words do not come easy and we continually defer to others who are superior.

Humility has been associated with the spirituality of self-hatred. This is true for those whose religious formation made them feel guilty about talent or excellence. One's gifts and talents were looked upon with suspicion. They could be misused and could lead one to the sin of pride. To avoid such fall, one needed to deny such talent or keep it under tight control. Religious superiors were schooled in how to control talent.

The confusion of humility with self-hatred however is not confined to religious communities. The damage caused to children and adults by self-hatred is all too familiar. The alarming rate of teenage suicide and other forms of destructive behavior (drugs, alcohol, destructive sexual behavior and the like) are often connected to self-hatred. Many failed marriages and broken relationships occur because the people involved cannot believe that they are able to love and be loved.

Humility is not self-hatred or denial of one's God-given talents. Our failure to appreciate our gifts and use them to praise God and help others is anything but humility. It is a denial of God's love and a failure to take responsibility for the gifts and skills which have been entrusted to us. Sirach teaches the way to humility because it is grounded in truth. We see ourselves as we are with no illusion of greatness or destructive image which evokes self-hatred. The humble person has a truthful self-image in relation to God and others. He/she does not try to claim knowledge or strength beyond what is reasonable; he/she knows the limits and boundaries and is always open to wisdom.

Jesus is the model of a humble and truthful life. He does not counsel self-hatred. Jesus became our poor flesh so that we might become what God's love always wanted us to be. We can risk being human by being truthful about our condition, knowing that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we shall be exalted.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

comes the greatest form of service, the crucifixion. In Jesus comes the greatest expression of love, the Cross.

We are a community of covenanted disciples and in line with our worship's direction we are called upon to be imitators of Christ, that we carry our cross everyday and be Christ-like in enduring suffering. The passion is not only about the blood, the scourging and crowning with thorns. We need to strive beyond the metaphors of the crucifixion. It is something we are to imitate. It is about our moral and emotional athleticism. It is about the test inside of love, our own passion and death.

Jesus said, "*Learn from me,*" giving us a model to follow. Through Christ, He gave us a clear blueprint of how to live a fulfilled life. What does it really mean to us today to take up one's cross? Is a cross a mere inconvenience of our earthly life?

For us disciples to take up our cross would be to take the suffering and inconveniences that are in front of us right now and use them to generate love, just as Christ perfected love on the cross. By commending ourselves to God in full trust and confidence, our dear God can make good out of any situation, relationship problems, and illnesses. The crisis we have today is not the rest of the story. It will be defined by our readiness to embrace our cross and retrace Christ's footsteps to Calvary.

We can accept our cross freely like Christ or carry it with resentment. When problems become almost unbearable we forget and abandon God as a distant cold deity. We set him aside and we live with the illusion of self-sovereignty over our lives.

At times we choose a cross that makes us feel best. We even carry other people's crosses yet we ditch out our very own cross. Occasionally we are asked to put down the cross we carry but we refuse to relinquish, or even disdain help from others. We create walls around us and we become too invincible and invulnerable. Yet our Redeemer allowed a Cyrenian to help Him carry the cross.

The Cross was Jesus' task set for Him and our cross is the task that God has set for us. To carry our cross is the acceptance everyday that to follow Jesus is to give up our right and expectation to control our lives. It is not our life anymore. All our want and our priorities are to be crucified. In return we get a life that actually will last but that life is not ours to own. When we carry our cross, we are condemned to death. We are dead and Christ lives in us. Just like the grain of wheat that falls on the ground, it remains a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

We do not carry our cross for Christ. We carry it with His grace. As Pope John Paul II *continued* ➤

True Freedom in Christ

"...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

One of the key teachings we learn from Scripture is the knowledge of the "Truth". In the verse above, Jesus spoke about knowing the truth that sets us free. It is not mere intellectual knowledge but more of the maturing of the seed of Divine Revelation in our souls. To know this truth is to know Christ Himself, who said, "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.*"

During my younger days like most of my peers I could not wait for the day when I could be independent enough to do whatever I desired. I longed for the time when I was no longer under the supervision of my parents, when no one had to tell me what to do and I could make decisions and be responsible for it. When the time finally came, I basked in the 'pseudo-freedom' to do my own thing, not answerable to anyone but myself. Looking back now, I am convinced that the freedom I wanted so much brought me more grief than joy. This so called "freedom" brought me closer to the slavery by the flesh, the world and the evil one. In His goodness, the Lord called me to let me know what true freedom really meant. It was a slow and painful process because the first thing that I had to accept was I was never in control and that I was no match to the powers of darkness that pounce on people who thought they could do it on their own; we were easy pickings to the evil slave master – the father of lies.

Knowing Jesus, the true and only Son of God, the only One who can make us sons of God through the merits of His sacrificial love, gives us true freedom. Acceptance and belief in His Name enabled us to become children of God because we were born, not by blood, nor by the will of man but of God (John 1:12-13).

But being free carries with it the responsibility to bring the truth to others. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we must proclaim to everyone every day, this inexhaustible treasure that belongs to us – the glorious and true freedom of the children of God (Romans 8:21).

quoted a poet "Do not follow yourself with the cross of the Savior, but follow the Savior and your cross." Jesus carried the cross that was not His. It was yours and mine. He paid the highest cost, the cost of the cross, for us, the cost of repentance and conversion.

DIRECTIONS

1. Do not rebel against authorities. Do not turn your back to those in need. Do not shield yourself from criticisms.
2. Relive the passion, death and resurrection of Christ in our individual and communal life.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
 Bring your old or unused School Supplies
 St. Mary's Church • Contacts: Ruben & Luz
 Amarante • 908-810-1213 • Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

WORD

Announcing a Writing Contest for 2010!!!

Title: "What BLD means to Me"

Why are YOU in community? Let us know through an essay, poem, or song. Winning entries will be announced.

Email to word@bldnewark.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)
 St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
 Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
 MLA Ministry mia@bldnewark.com

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
 Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MAR. 19, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	1,817	35,784
Expenses	18,181	43,806
Surplus/(Deficit)	(16,364)	(8,022)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Make Covenant News

A Part of Your Covenant Life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC MEETING

April 10, 2010 • 1-5pm @ St. Mary's Library

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY RETREAT

Please reserve **Apr. 24, 2010, 8-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 09	Teaching - Youth
Apr 16	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 & Singles
Apr 23	Teaching - Intercessory Formation, Youth & Golden Years Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - Solo Parents
Apr 30	Intro to Intercession – ME 34 MGT - LSS 31-32 & Singles

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

Humanity Is Made to Love (from page 1)

understand the profound identity of the person, his vocation to love."

"Man is made to love; his life is fully realized only if he lives in love," the Pontiff added.

Benedict XVI urged the youth participating in the forum "to search with all their heart to discover their vocation to love, as persons and as baptized."

"This is the key to the whole of existence," he explained. "Thus they will be able to invest all their energies in approaching the goal day after day, sustained by the Word of God and by the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist."

Priesthood and marriage

The Holy Father noted that "the vocation to love" looks differently depending on one's state in life.

With regard to priests, he recalled the words of the St. John Mary Vianney, known as the Curé d'Ars, who said that "the priesthood is love of the heart of Jesus."

"In following Jesus, many priests have given their life, so that the faithful can live of the love of Christ," the Pontiff reflected. "Called by God to give themselves entirely to him, with an integral heart, persons consecrated in celibacy are also a sign of the love of God for the world and of the vocation to love God above all."

Benedict XVI urged the young people to also "discover the grandeur and beauty of marriage," which he said "assumes an immense dignity" because it "reflects divine love in a completely special way."

"In a cultural context in which many persons consider marriage as a temporal contract that can be broken, it is of vital importance to understand that true love is faithful, definitive gift of self," he said. "Given that Christ consecrates the love of Christian spouses and commits himself to them, this fidelity not only is possible, but is the way to enter into an ever greater charity.

"Thus, in the daily life of the couple and of the family, spouses learn to love as Christ loves."

The Pope will preside at a Mass on Palm Sunday to celebrate the 25th World Youth Day. The theme for the youth event will be: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"To this question, posed by a rich young man, Jesus answers with a look of love and an invitation to total self-giving for love of God," the Pope said. "May this meeting be able to contribute to the generous response of each delegate to the call and gifts of the Lord!"

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 13

Bulletin Edition

April 9, 2010

NEWS

Pope: Easter Changed World, but Isn't Magic

Affirms Glorious Triumph of Christ

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 4, 2010 (Zenit.org) - The resurrection of Christ is an event that changed the course of history and reversed the destiny of death the whole world faced, says Benedict XVI.

The Pope affirmed this today before tens of thousands, many hiding under umbrellas to escape the rain in St. Peter's Square. The Holy Father offered his Easter greetings in 65 languages before giving his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

"Yes, my brothers and sisters, Easter is the true salvation of humanity," the Pontiff proclaimed. "If Christ -- the Lamb of God -- had not poured out his blood for us, we would be without hope, our destiny and the destiny of the whole world would inevitably be death.

"But Easter has reversed that trend: Christ's resurrection is a new creation, like a graft that can regenerate the whole plant. It is an event that has profoundly changed the course of history, tipping the scales once and for all on the side of good, of life, of pardon.

"We are free, we are saved! Hence from deep within our hearts we cry out: 'Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!'"

Benedict XVI went on to mention some of the places in the world awaiting this triumph of Christ.

"I pray to the Lord Jesus that in the Middle East, and especially in the land sanctified by his death and resurrection, the peoples will accomplish a true and definitive 'exodus' from war and violence to peace and concord," the Pope said. He particularly mentioned the plight of Christians in Iraq.

The Holy Father also spoke of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, "seeing a dangerous resurgence of crimes linked to drug trafficking," and he remembered quake-stricken Haiti and Chile.

The Pontiff called to mind Africa, saying, "In the strength of the risen Jesus, may the conflicts in Africa come to an end." He recalled specifically the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Nigeria.

Finally, he spoke of Christians who suffer persecution and even death for their faith, as for example in Pakistan; and countries afflicted by terrorism and by social and religious discrimination.

"Easter does not work magic," Benedict XVI reflected. "Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church, after the resurrection, always finds history filled with joy and hope, grief and anguish. And yet, this history is changed, it is marked by a new and eternal covenant, it is truly open to the future. For this reason, saved by hope, let us continue our pilgrimage, bearing in our hearts the song that is ancient and yet ever new: 'Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!'"

COUNSELS

TITLE: Tune In To God, Tune Up Your Faith
READINGS: Acts 5:12-16; Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24; Rev 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19; Jn 20:19-31

ORDER: *"..Do not be unbelieving, but believe"*
(John 20: 28)

THEME: We seek heavenly things when we firmly believe in God

REFLECTION:

"To seek heavenly things" is to seek God Himself; all the goodness associated with heaven comes with Him. To firmly believe in God is to trust that He, who loved us and sought us first, will be true to His promise to share His divine life with us - even though we don't and can never deserve it. It is only through God's grace that we have this hope to live in communion with Him forever.

Faith is both a grace and a human act. A grace, because *"man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth."* (CCC 153) A human act, because *"believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace."* (CCC 155)

In the readings, grace consists of the gift of healing bestowed on Peter, the vision of the Lord granted to John, the Risen Lord's appearances to His disciples, and His gift of the Holy Spirit. The human acts are Peter's obedient faith, the belief of the sick and those who carried them that the Lord was in Peter, John's deep prayer on the Lord's day, the disciples' joyful belief in the Risen Lord, and Thomas' overcoming his unbelief with his faith-filled declaration, "my Lord and my God".

From the readings, we learn that our response of faith requires being tuned in to God, and being attuned to God, in turn, helps our faith. To be tuned in to God is like setting our radio or TV to a Christian station, EWTN, or other channels with wholesome family programming.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." (Jn 20: 31b)

A Call to All

"...And that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all the nations..." Lk 24:47

"For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39

A quick look at a globe shows how the Philippines is a world away from Israel. Looking back at history, it is sometimes tempting to think that Catholicism in the Philippines was just a consequence of Magellan's journey - What if Spain did not come and conquer? Would I still be Christian, let alone a Catholic?

The Philippines would probably have a different name... but beyond the politics, therein is the true test of Christ's message. Will I believe that He is the Truth, the Life and the Way?

The answer is a resounding YES!! Yes because His works are the evidence. Yes because His resurrection is the proof. But it is also YES, if only because of His message of repentance and forgiveness...If only because of His message of LOVE. It may be a somewhat selfish thought, but I believe in a God who loves me and my fellow man; I believe in a God who would do what He can for us... if we but turn to Him. I believe in a God Who would die for me.

And YES, I believe in the God Who vanquished death... Who conquered it, for US! And rose from the dead this Easter! History lessons aside, the reality, here and now is that He is a God for all, and He is calling all, including you and me. He promises and delivers life to those both far and near, to all nations: in Israel, in the far off land of the Philippines, even here in New Jersey.

Life will still happen and years will go by. Question is how much life will be in those years. Why choose some other path when with Christ, He's always there offering us LIFE, LIFE in abundance. And it is readily available; we can literally pray anytime and He is always there. In good times and in bad, He provides meaning for living.

But our belief must not be just something we inherited from our parents. And yes, now that we know, there is no turning back - our God requires a very active, not passive, love and repentance from us. As Jesus commanded, **"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."** **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** (Mt 22:37 and 39)

Doesn't it all make sense? Nothing in life makes as much absolute sense.

So, Thank You Lord for allowing me to know You. Thank You for this gift of Faith that provides us meaning. As we go through each day, may we live and spend them answering Your call. May our actions exemplify and amplify Your call to all.

Stop Holding onto Me

It is by God's plan that we are saved. God raised Jesus up from death so that we too may dwell in hope. We have seen that God's promise is true, and if we follow the paths that God has shown us, we, too, like Jesus can be in His presence. Just as He raised Jesus up as He had promised to David, He will raise us up and save us from the corruption of the world. Jesus came as "the Way, the Truth and the Life." He shows us the way to His Father and our Father.

"Stop holding onto me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father", Jesus had said to Mary Magdalene. (John 20:18).

We too must learn to say this to the things of the world that keep us from the Lord's presence. There are times in my walk with the Lord when I find myself unable or unwilling to see the right path. I become confused when I start to apply a worldly standard to choices and actions. Like Mary Magdalene, these choices do not appear to be harmful, and yet they keep me from following God. In the back of my mind I know that if I keep evaluating my life using two standards, my walk with the Lord will take a very long time, and I may be misled in ways that I do not even realize.

Clinging to my Mary Magdalene will keep me from being with God. In my heart, I am counting on God's forgiveness when I stray from the path He has shown me. Unfortunately, the mask of the world is more cunning than simply luring us away. It can make things that lead us away from God look like the right path.

Always, we must keep our focus on the Lord, and learn to say no to the things that keep us from Him. God's way is the only way, as Jesus came down to this earth to show us. He has made for us a path of salvation and redemption. **"I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed."** (Acts 2:25)



Father Paul Speaks

Divine Mercy Sunday

The glorious feast of Easter comes to its “octave” day on the feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11. We need to be reminded over and over again of the infinite depths of the mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. How does Divine mercy fit in with conscience, and the awareness of our sinfulness?

If we are liberal enough to deny the reality of sin we do not need mercy. Consciousness of sin can be a very healthy experience, because instead of driving us to despair we fall into the arms of Divine Mercy.

I would like to take this opportunity to review again the conditions for committing a mortal sin viz., 1) serious matter, 2) sufficient reflection, and 3) full consent of the will. There is unfortunately a casualness about sin to the point where receiving the Eucharist unworthily is not such a big deal.

If we are conscious of mortal sin, we are normally expected to confess that sin in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Communion. However there can be legitimate exceptions.

I quote from guidelines published by the United States bishops’ conference: “A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the body and Blood of the Lord without previous sacramental confession. EXCEPT for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession.

In this case the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible.” The point here is to avoid serious irreverence to the Eucharist, as well as offer the opportunity for repentance even before the Sacrament of reconciliation is received.

The question often centers on the notion of serious matter. In my confessional experience I am usually more interested in the attitude and the intention of the one confessing rather than the matter. For instance, sexual matters are considered serious matter.

I find it difficult, however, to accuse a sincerely motivated adolescent boy, struggling with his sexuality, of mortal sin when he falls into solitary sin. The awakening of a new feeling, coupled with confusion and immaturity, in my opinion often remove the condition of full consent. Admittedly he must avoid occasions of sin, like pornography etc.

On the other hand a single person regularly engaging in acts of fornication, or the adulterous spouse, gives me the presumption of serious matter and mortal sin.

There are other serious matters which involve less emotional urging. Instances of deliberately missing Mass on Sunday, in my book are more serious than many of the more emotional urges that lead one to sin.

Jesus is ready to forgive all. Spread the word. God loves us all unconditionally. Repentance and Confession are true freedom indeed!

Counsel (from page 1)

This means tuning out voices, messages and idols that turn us away from God: all that is fleshly and worldly, the spirits that are not of the Lord. However, this does not mean the loss of free will. *“To be human, man’s response to God by faith must be free, and...therefore, nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against his will. The act of faith is of its very nature a free act.”* (CCC 160).

Tuning in to God is to fix our eyes on Jesus, our sure access to the Father, the Beginning, the Way, and the End of our journey to God. It is to tune in to the Lord’s example during His public ministry. In Jesus, we find the embodiment of the life we too must live, a life devoted to seeking a lasting unity with the Father, a life of faith, of prayer, of obedience to God’s will, and of loving and selfless service to others, especially the needy.

Tuning in to God is to abide in *the Holy Spirit, who alone enables us to say that Jesus is Lord* (1 Cor 12:3) and *to call God, Abba Father* (Gal 4:6). *“To be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit”* (CCC 683). It is the Spirit who sanctifies us, brings us to communion with God, that we may bear much fruit.

Tuning in to God is to share in the Lord’s Cross and Resurrection. Jesus promised, “And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself” (Jn 12:32). The nail marks on His hands and the wound on His side attest to His being lifted up, to His divinity. Only the One who comes from above can return to the Father above. They attest to the power of God over death, to the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to unshackle us from the chains of sin and death that bound us to earth and to earthly things. They attest to the truth that in Christ our Lord, heaven, the things of heaven, all that is pure and holy - are within the reach of those who believe.

As Jesus is lifted up, so are we and our faith lifted up. Regardless of circumstances - whether in sorrow, pain, want or fear, during those times when the nail marks and side wound of Jesus seem like our own, when we are hard-pressed and are falling - our faith in the Lord Jesus, as our helper and savior, will give us the strength and courage to persevere. Our faith will remain firm, that in Jesus alone is Heaven, in Him alone is Life! Jesus, our Lord and our God, is risen!

Directions on tuning in to God, tuning up our faith:

1. Talk about God’s word. Make it your way of life that people will see and know Jesus in your person. Be the light and salt of the earth. Live Jesus daily.
2. Be active in declaring the works of the Lord. Use your spiritual gifts as witness to the power of the Holy Spirit and continue to proclaim the Good News through our encounter programs and mission work

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELIZATION SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - Conducted by Fr. Dennis Kaelin
St. Mary's/St. Mark's Parish
St. Mary's School, Rm 104, Fridays from 7:30-8pm
Everyone is welcome. Know God better through His Word
For information on St. Mary's and St. Mark's visit their
newly designed website: www.stmarystmarkparish.com

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church • Contacts: Ruben & Luz
Amarante • 908-810-1213 • Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children
are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please
note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up
must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will
be responsible for their children's safety.

*We thank you in advance for your full
cooperation in this very important matter.*

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Apr. 10 • YE# 16 • Contacts: ycs@bldnewark.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Apr 24** • ME# 31
Contacts: Emil/Baby Canlas 551.265.0719 • 551.265.0720
milesanac@yahoo.com • Frank/Malou Venadas

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take
place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

Make Covenant News

A Part of Your Covenant Life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing a Writing Contest for 2010!!!

Title: "What BLD means to Me"

Why are YOU in community? Let us know through an
essay, poem, or song. Winning entries will be announced.
Email articles to word@bldnewark.com.

DLC MEETING

April 10, 2010 • 1-5pm @ St. Mary's Library

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY RETREAT

Please reserve **Apr. 24, 2010, 8-6pm** for our next
Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted
disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be
no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with
this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LSS No. 34

Apr. 16 (Invocation Mass) • **Apr. 17-18** (LSS Proper)
St Mary's • Contact: lsa@bldnewark.com

Aspirant's Retreat

Apr. 16-18 • Up to LSS 29

Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center
125 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, NJ 08837
Contacts: Charlie/Weng Larobis 732-986-5156
Jovy/Emily Lucero 732-207-9422

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

- Apr 09 Teaching – Youth
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - Solo
Parents
- Apr 16 Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10,
John 6 & Singles
- Apr 23 Teaching - Intercessory Formation,
Youth & Golden Years
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - Solo
Parents
- Apr 30 Intro to Intercession – ME 34
MGT - LSS 31-32 & Singles
- May 01* Christian Maturity II – LSS 31-32
Encounter with Jesus – LSS 33
Apologetics – LSS 29-30, Covenanted
- May 14 Teaching – Youth
Intro to Intercession – Solo Parents
- May 15 Encounter with Jesus – LSS 33
Seven Anointings - Covenanted

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MARCH 26, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,549	39,533
Expenses	1,069	44,875
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,480	(5,342)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

**May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon
those who are celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!**

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 14

Bulletin Edition

April 16, 2010

The DIVINE MERCY Devotion at Divine Mercy Parish

“Lord, you have been merciful to your land; you have made Israel prosperous again.” (Ps 85:1)

It is with great joy that I would like to convey to the BLD Community this good news that St. Mary’s and St. Mark’s parishes are going to be merged as one parish in July 1, 2010 with the new name DIVINE MERCY PARISH in Rahway. With a new name, we are hoping that it will bring renewed energy and dynamism among parishioners. For us in BLD, this new name for our home brings a spiritual pride for truly we are blessed that we are marching under the banner of the Divine Mercy of Jesus.

As parishioners and residents of Divine Mercy Parish, it is imperative for us to know as well as to spread the devotion to the Divine Mercy of Jesus. We should be the first ones to understand the message and good news of Jesus the Divine Mercy.

Though it is one of the newest and latest devotions but it is one of the most sublime and important to the new millennium because it is truly Jesus himself giving instructions to a Polish nun, Sr. Maria Faustina to spread this devotion. And I presume there are still many Catholic faithful who do not understand or hear the core essence of His message. In line with this, I would like to discuss and to emphasize important points about the Divine Mercy Devotion.

What do we mean when we say “Divine Mercy”?

We are actually talking about God’s LOVE. We are talking about God as a Loving and Merciful Father. We are actually referring to God’s effort and the Desire of God to forgive our sins and to reconcile us to the Father and to one another. We are talking about God’s unconditional love as revealed to us by Jesus Himself as verbally dictated to Sr. Faustina, the Secretary of His Mercy. Thus, Divine Mercy is God reaching out to us that all of us will return to His loving and merciful embrace.

How do we celebrate Devotion to the Divine Mercy?

Jesus taught Sr. Faustina the fundamentals of trust, and mercy to others, as well as He revealed special ways to live out the response to His mercy which we call our devotion or commitment of our lives to Jesus who is Mercy itself. When we offer ourselves to the Divine Mercy of Jesus, we become instruments of His mercy to others, living out the commandment of Jesus.

Continued on page 3

COUNSELS Caring

WORD: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps 30:2,4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

THEME: We seek heavenly things when we truly care for others.

ORDER: *“Feed my lamb... tend my sheep... feed my sheep.”* (John 21:15, 16, 17)

REFLECTION:

Over the past week, we have seen the many occasions when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. This gospel from John recounts how Jesus reveals himself yet again to them. This time, the setting is the Sea of Tiberias where the disciples have been fishing all night without bringing in a catch. It seemed that for them, it was business as usual, as if nothing had happened to change their lives.

At daybreak, Jesus is standing on the shore, but none of His disciples recognize Him. He advises them to cast their net on the other side for a catch and they caught so much fish, their nets were tearing. Fishermen go out to sea at night because that is when fish are easy to catch, not in daylight. The Lord was giving His apostles the gift of a second chance. On the shore, meanwhile, Jesus is cooking some fish over a charcoal fire and invites them to *“Come, have breakfast”*. Again it is in the breaking of bread and sharing of a meal that the Risen Christ reveals himself.

Jesus takes Peter aside and asks him the same question thrice, corresponding to Peter’s three-time denial of Christ when He stood before Pilate. *“Do you love me?”* he asks, and Peter answers *“I do.”* Jesus persists, not content to hear Peter’s avowal only once. With each answer from Peter, Jesus gives him instructions: *“Feeds my lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” “Feed my sheep.”* Peter was being asked to take care of the flock, giving him an opportunity to proclaim and prove his love and loyalty to the Risen Christ, and reclaim the authority he lost with his denial. He is given the commission to guard and care for the whole flock in Christ’s name. And Peter will do exactly that for the rest of his life as the Vicar of Christ, the chief shepherd through whom Christ will always be present in his Church, guiding it through the hierarchy, and

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” (John 21: 6)

Christ, Is The Standard

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe in Him may have eternal life.” (Jn 3:14-15)

Picture Moses as he grasps the pole and lifts it up, and marches it through the camp like a great standard-bearer.

The serpent was the symbol of salvation... ***“that he who looks on it shall live”*** (Numbers 21:8-9 paraphrased) Our condition is like that of the bitten children of Israel, dying a bit more every day as the venom coursed through their bodies. The Israelites in the wilderness represented us who are sinners. Their remedy – a brazen serpent lifted up on a pole by Moses, ours- Christ crucified and “lifted up” by wicked men on the cross. But God the Father lifted him up and highly exalted him above principalities and powers.

In these verses in John 3:14-15, Jesus really answers Nicodemus’ earlier question of verse 9, ***“How can these things come about?”*** A person’s regeneration by the Holy Spirit (which enables that individual to enter the kingdom) can come about only through the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of the Son of Man. In John’s gospel, being “lifted up” refers to one continuous action of ascent, beginning with the cross but ending at the right hand of the Father. Jesus’ crucifixion, resurrection and ascent back to heaven is the upward swing of the “pendulum” which began in John’s prologue with the incarnation, the descent of the Word become flesh from heaven to earth.

Therefore if Christ is the standard, the Apostle Paul enjoins, ***“Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross! Because of this, God greatly exalted Him.”***(Phil 2:5-9a)

Jesus is the pinnacle of all things a human should be. Not only was He legally sinless, He was also humble, meek, merciful, sacrificial, patient and kind. None of us measure up to His standard, and this is what *hamartia* (“sins”) describe: falling short of the ideal. ***“What does ‘He ascended’ mean except that He also descended into the lower (regions) of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ.”*** (Eph 4:9-13)

You Must Obey God Rather Than Men

This is true with us, Christians and disciples of Jesus, members of the Catholic Church Jesus founded, members of a charismatic renewal prayer faith community, firmly believing in Jesus, trusting in His words and promises, and obeying His teachings and commandments of love.

Since Jesus promised the apostles a helper who is the Holy Spirit during His ascension to heaven, and the Pentecost was its fulfillment, powerful manifestations happened from that day on. The church was born! The apostles, including Mary, were empowered to perform what Jesus performed in His public ministry-they preached the gospels and proclaimed God's kingdom, with signs and healings that made thousands of unbelievers "Christians", everyday. Because of these mighty deeds, they were imprisoned, yet they were released by the hands of God, and were able to do God's will and plan for His glory, by their preaching, till the ends of the earth, as Jesus commissioned them. (Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:5-19)

In our present time, Christians are being discriminated and persecuted around the world, especially in non-Christian and Muslim countries. In this country, our lawmakers have denounced prayer in schools and workplaces, and sports events. They even want to remove God's name in our currency, and the Pledge of Allegiance! They want no Christmas carols on the radio, or saying “Merry Christmas” at airports. They legalize abortions, and same sex marriages, they pass bills that diminishes the elderly and sick people's rights., like the Teresa Schiavo case, a few years ago., when the court ruled that tube feedings be stopped because the patient had brain dysfunction, and to them, that is not life. What about the late Bishop Romero of Mexico, who was killed while preaching for justice sake? What about the missionaries who are being tortured and burnt in Indonesia? On the other hand, many evangelical pastors and Jewish rabbis have converted to the Catholic faith, because of the Holy Eucharist and the holy mass. and now are pillars of faith in EWTN. We see miracles in people with hopeless diseases, and situations around us, and everywhere, through answered prayers and healing services. In our state, same sex marriage was banned, for God provided us a good, practicing Christian new governor.

Like the apostles and saints who were martyred for their faith, we too, as Christ’s followers, must be bold to do what Jesus and His saints did for God’s glory, for our reward is not only the abundant life, but eternal life and happiness in God's kingdom. When we have faith and trust that is beyond human perception and imagination, our witnessing becomes powerful and God finishes the work, and His glory is revealed. God made a covenant with us with an everlasting love, and providence. Jesus has made promises to us, in all the gospels. Most significant and wonderful of all, the Holy Spirit is with us, when we obey God, rather than men. And behold what our advocate can do, which man cannot! Choose God!

Divine Mercy (from page 1)

“Be merciful even as your Father is merciful.” (Lk 6:36)

Important Components of Divine Mercy Devotion

1. Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast of the Divine Mercy

Jesus Himself requested to Sr. Faustina to celebrate Mercy Sunday. He said, *“I desire that there will be a Feast of Mercy and I want this on First Sunday after Easter. That Sunday is to be Feast of Mercy. And on that day, priests have to tell everyone about my great and unfathomable mercy.”*

On April 30, 2000, in response to the request of Jesus, Pope John Paul II declared and established the First Sunday after Easter as the Feast of Divine Mercy or Mercy Sunday. He mandated the whole universal Church to gather throughout the world and celebrate this great Feast of Mercy.

And it was on the same day of declaration of the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday that Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina as St. Maria Faustina, the great Apostle of Divine Mercy in our time. The Pope said, *“the message of Divine Mercy she shared is urgently needed at the dawn of the new millennium”*. Truly, the Diary of Sr. Faustina tells us that this Octave Day of Easter is a day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces- a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith. *“On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to confession (eight days before or after) and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.”* (Diary 699)

2. The Novena Before the Feast

To celebrate properly this great Feast of Divine Mercy, Jesus asked Sr. Faustina and us to make a novena of prayer and recitation of the Chaplet from Good Friday to the following Saturday. *“I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fount of My Mercy that they may draw there from strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death.”* (Diary 1209)

3. The Image of the Divine Mercy

Jesus appeared to Sr. Faustina with rays of red and pale light streaming from the area around His heart and His hand was raised in blessing, recalling the scene of Easter Sunday night. Sr. Faustina was instructed to have this vision painted and at the bottom the words, *“Jesus, I trust in you!”*

The image is a reminder to all of us to trust in His mercy and to ask for His mercy, because Jesus said, *“I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in you.”* (Diary 327)

The rays represented the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side, as Jesus taught Sr. Faustina the prayer, *“O blood and water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you.”* (Diary 84)

4. Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

Sr. Faustina was asked to pray for mercy unceasingly which we call the Chaplet. By praying this chaplet, Jesus promised our prayers will have great power for the conversion of sinners, for peace, for the dying, and even for controlling nature. Praying the chaplet is like praying the rosary. (Please see instructions on how to pray the chaplet) *Continued on page 4*

COUNSEL (from page 1)

drawing all men to himself.

Two thousand years ago, the Church was commissioned for her great work by the Lord, while 25 years ago, the BLD Covenant Community was made a vessel by which the Lord can manifest His presence among us, giving us the task and active role to be fishers of men, assisting the Church in her work of salvation.

One of the gospel’s sub themes is Care, the biblical foundation of BLD’s Pastoral Care Program through which, members of the Community express or respond to God’s covenant of love by nurturing and caring for one another, and bringing to full maturity in Christ all those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to us. BLD’s Pastoral Care Program empowers disciples and aspiring disciples to live the life of the Spirit by:

- a. Shepherding them to maturity in Christ through the exercise of their natural and spiritual gifts;
- b. Enabling them to overcome problems and afflictions in their daily personal, family, vocational and community life.
- c. Training them to minister to one another’s material, psychological and spiritual needs.
- d. Cultivating Christian stewardship in their personal, family, vocational and community life; developing sound personal relationships based on sacrificial love born of the fruit of the Spirit.

The Word Sharing Circle (WSC) is the primary forum for the BLD Pastoral Care Program, since the spirit of intimacy is best promoted among people who have learned to regard each other with openness and respect. It is necessary for the WSC to have a semblance of permanence with regards to its membership, as well as a regular weekly meeting. We are called to care for our portion of the flock – our family, people at work, in community, and those whom the Lord calls us to care for. We show our love not through what we say, but what we do.

The challenge Christ presented to Peter – *“Do you love me more than these others do?”* is the same challenge facing us. And the Church will gather into one unbroken net, men and women of every race, color and nationality. Like the apostles, we are all summoned by Jesus to extend God’s kingdom everywhere.

To be faithful to the ideals of the gospel requires courage because it is never easy to do. All of us can find some way, whether modest or spectacular, important or insignificant, in which we can be helpful to others. We are presented with daily opportunities to help the elderly, listen to the bereaved and to give human contact to the lonely provided we are willing to take the time. This Sunday leads us to the promise of the Lord: *“We seek heavenly things when we care for others.”*

Heavenly Father, people who listen to your Word follow the Risen Christ. Grant us the courage to trust that you are with us as we respond to your call to cast our nets and care for our share of the flock. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

DIRECTIONS

1. Identify Pastoral Counselors and develop implementation processes.
2. Develop Class Shepherd’s manual to help and equip future class shepherds.

Divine Mercy (from page 3)

5. The Three O'clock Hour

Jesus asked Sr. Faustina, "At three o'clock implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony; This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (Diary 1320)

And so, at 3:00 o'clock we can pray: "You expired Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and the ocean mercy opened up for the whole world. O fount of Life unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelope the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us." (Diary 1319)

6. The ABC of Divine Mercy

- Ask for Mercy** - Let us receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and ask for His Mercy because His Mercy is overflowing. His mercy is always available to us, no matter what we have done or what state we are in, even if our sins are as black as night, and we are filled with fears and anxieties... "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy." (Diary 723)
- Be Merciful** - As we receive His mercy, so must we have to share it to others, by being merciful by our actions, by our words, and by our prayers. We concretize this by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." (Mt. 5:7)
- Completely Trust in Jesus** - God wants us to turn to His mercy, with complete trust. This is the essence of the message and devotion to The Divine Mercy: TRUST and MERCY. In words given to Sr. Faustina: "Jesus, I trust in you!" Amen.

*Make Covenant News
A Part of Your Covenant Life!*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing a Writing Contest for 2010!!!

Title: "What BLD means to Me"

Why are YOU in community? Let us know through an essay, poem, or song. Winning entries will be announced.

Email articles to word@bldnewark.com.

YE 16 Monastery Visit

Apr 24, 10-1pm • 1697 Route 3, Clifton, NJ

Fr. Luis Navaratne's reflection on "The Holy Shroud" and "The Empty Tomb". Please be there before 10am. You are welcome to bring snack. This invitation is extend to all.

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY RETREAT

Please reserve **Apr. 24, 2010, 9-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 24

June 4-6 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY

Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up
Contacts: Rey/Tess Salmo 732-766-1785 • 732-387-8210
Email: tessgsalmo@aol.com

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ

Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 16 Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10,
John 6 & Singles

Apr 23 Teaching - Intercessory Formation,
Youth & Golden Years
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - Solo
Parents

Apr 30 Intro to Intercession - ME 34
MGT - LSS 31-32 & Singles

May 01* Christian Maturity II - LSS 31-32
Encounter with Jesus - LSS 33
Apologetics - LSS 29-30, Covenanted

May 14 Teaching - Youth
Intro to Intercession - Solo Parents

May 15 Encounter with Jesus - LSS 33
Seven Anointings - Covenanted

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Apr 24 • ME# 31** Contacts:
Emil/Baby Canlas 551.265.0719 • 551.265.0720
milesanac@yahoo.com • Frank/Malou Venadas

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MARCH 26, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,711	44,264
Expenses	10,804	55,824
Surplus/(Deficit)	(6,093)	(11,560)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 15

Bulletin Edition

April 23, 2010

SPIRIT FILLED LAMBS

We give praise and thanksgiving to our Almighty Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for filling the hearts of thy faithful, during our recent LSS#34 held at St. Mary's on April 16-18, 2010. It is with much peace, love, and joy to present to you the 43 spirit-filled lambs that were commissioned by Fr. Pete Literal, our Seminar Spiritual Director. These new creations in Christ are as follows:

Joe & Trudy Aboyme, Art & Yen Arnan, Aurora Cabot, Rose Calinawan, Jeff Campomanes, Elaine Canlas, Charlene Chang, Keith & Kat Davis, Rhia Diaz, Christian Duque, Willy & Amor Ferrer, Anna Gonzalvo, Jessica Herb, Juliet Hobson, Adaeze Ihuoma, Shenley Lipa, Juan & MaryAnn Lomibao, Earl & Flo Manguiat, Mel & Anjou Martinez, Greg Motyka, Mario & Carmen Olazo, Apple Padilla, Robert & Emilie Padaginog, Michael Phillips, Victoria Quiambao, Anna Lynn Racho, Jayson Santiano, Josephine Soriano, William & Mary Sumandal, Margo Tolentino, Mateo & Precy Yap, and Mark Zamora.

Our God is an awesome God! Tito Eliong Sison, ECSL in charge of the Evangelization Apostolate in Manila, exhorted our LSS lambs to stand and pray over their shepherds. Truly our Lord is the Great Shepherd!

We welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ to our BLD Community. We pray that they will continue to grow in faith with Christ Jesus, as their hearts overflow with the Spirit of God. Go forth. Proclaim the good news and perform the good works that our Heavenly Father began on you. To God we give all glory, honor, and praise! Praise be to God!!! Alleluia!!!

GOD'S INVITATION FOR FULL COMMITMENT

The Aspirants Retreat for covenant discipleship was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Edison Township, NJ. Twenty six aspirants responded to God's invitation for full commitment. Twelve of the aspirants are from our district affiliate of Charlotte, NC & 14 from our own BLD Newark. The candidates from our DIP were: Tony & Vangie Baludio, Ray & Chat Decena, Cesar & Ava Gordola, Mae Cruz, Edna (Amor) Day, Rucel Javier, Richelle Stacy, Denise Steele & Dee Strickl. *Continued on pg 4*

COUNSELS

LIVE JESUS DAILY

WORD: Acts 13:14,43-52; Ps 100:1-2,3,5; Rev 7:9,14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

THEME: We seek heavenly things when we become instruments of salvation.

ORDER: "*Worship the Lord with cries of gladness.*" (Ps 100:2)

"Hear my Voice and ... follow me." (Jn 10:27)

REFLECTION:

When I was young, my parents taught me to always make 3 wishes whenever I happen to visit a new Church. One of my wishes was that "I may know the Lord more." I believe the answer to that prayer came through BLD. Did I fully understand what I was asking for? Not really, but I believe God is good and I know I can trust Him in everything. The Scripture assures us that He is the Spirit of truth and "he will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you" John 14:26.

Like my prayer many years ago, many of us including Jesus' very own apostles did not understand exactly what it entails to be a follower of Christ. Even James and John the beloved, misunderstood Jesus' teaching on the kingdom as both of them requested a special seat of glory by His side, with little understanding on the consequence of such request. As for Paul, who was once the persecutor of Jesus followers, had an idea of what is expected in following Christ who is "The Way the Truth and the Life".

Ultimately, his disciples persevered in their trials to evangelize and spread the Good News. They embraced what Christ has taught them, that they must deny themselves and live a life of self-sacrifice to serve God, even to die for the cause.

Today in this modern world, following Christ takes a different turn. Unlike the early Christians none of us have ever shed blood, none of us have ever been flogged, none of us have ever been jailed for following Christ. Although there are still parts of the globe where persecution such as those encountered by early Christians continues. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"For the Lamb...will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Rev 7:17)

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

Through His angel, God takes the initiative and directs Philip to take the road to Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip is sent to the Ethiopian Eunuch to join him in his chariot. Philip's reaction is an immediate obedience, with little information but complete trust in God who guides. Am I willing to immediately follow God's will as Philip did?

Knowing God's will is related to the person's own spiritual condition. God reveals His will in our spirit as He illumines us. Convinced us with His circumstantiated arrangements; our God who does all things according to His will is infinite and supreme.

The Lord himself lived absolutely in the will of the Father and had never said or done anything in His own initiative (Jn 5:30; 8:28-29) and is a perfect model for us to imitate.

For as long as we have a sincere perfect love for the Lord and are truly willing to submit ourselves to Him to do His will, the Almighty Heavenly Father always has the way to reveal His will to us. Even if we may miscomprehend, the kind and loving Father will certainly redirect us to the path He desires for us (Mt 2:2, 9-10).

The will of God is a tremendous significance God created the universe in His own will. Discerning God's will is not a matter of preachers only but it is a must for everyone. The bible tells us that even the bondman believer should also walk the will of God (Eph 6:5-8, Col 3:22-25). And in order to walk in the will of God, one must first be able to discern the Will of God.

Through Philip's obedience he had guide and helped the Eunuch to confess his faith in Jesus as the Son of God. He understood that although he is a religious man it doesn't mean that he is saved. Seeing water on the way, He asked to be baptized, the need to be shown the way of God more accurately. "***When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away and the eunuch saw him no more, but continued on his way rejoicing.***" (Acts 8:39) The Lord wants Eunuch to have new life and Jesus is now present in the Eunuch's heart. As he Spreads Christianity outside the confines of Judaism which in itself was in accordance to God's plan, Philip has done his mission. As ministers, we are not indispensable and we can disappear but in Jesus' case, He is indispensable; He remains.

***Make Covenant News
A Part of Your Covenant Life!***

BEYOND OUR HUMAN NEEDS

We read in the book of Genesis that "***The Lord God formed man out of the clay from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.***" (Gen 2:7) This distinguishes us from the rest of God's creation. Man created in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:27), is both a corporeal and spiritual being. Biblical and modern theories affirm the personal unity of man at the same time a duality of body and soul. The Fifth Lateran Council (1513) authoritatively stated, "***The soul is immortal in contrast with the body which is subject to death.***"

Beyond one's earthly needs and material wants, one reaches the dimension of the spirit, which contains the essential foundation of that "image of God". As baptized and confirmed Catholics, we are consecrated to God and His kingdom. Our Lord Jesus exhorts us to work for food that endures to eternal life that feeds the soul and not on food that only feeds the body that perishes. The Son of Man gave Himself to save fallen humanity. The precious gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist is Christ's offering to the faithful as their spiritual food, a gift par excellence. This is the gift of His love to the point of giving up His life, He humbled Himself becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Phil 2:8).

The Eucharistic sacrifice makes present not only the mystery of the Lord's passion and death but also the mystery of resurrection that crowned his sacrifice. It is the paschal mystery of the living and the risen One that Christ becomes the "bread of life" in the Holy Eucharist, the living bread came down from heaven- the Bread of Angels. In the words of Jesus Himself, "***This is my body which is given for you ... 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.'***" (Lk 22:19b, 20b) The Church has properly called this change "transubstantiation". As believers, with total, unconditional and irrevocable trust in His love, we stand by His Word, for when God speaks His Word is action at the same time. The Eucharist is a true banquet, a spiritual food and nourishment throughout our earthly journey.

Holy Spirit, enkindle our hearts and minds to recognize your Real Presence-Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Sacrament of Love. Like the disciples at Emmaus, open our eyes to renew our faith and hope in the greatest treasure of our Catholic Church- the Holy Eucharist. We abide and remain in you as we ask, "***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***" (Jn 6:68) Blessed Mother Mary, our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, pray for us!

MINISTRY MATTERS: BLD GK

“This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.” (Is 58:6-7)

What was once planned as a one-time effort to raise money for a small movement called “Gawad Kalinga” in the Philippines turned out to be a long term commitment that became a vehicle for BLD’s mission of poverty alleviation. Sometime in 2004, Fr. Paul Lehman turned down a BLD plan to celebrate his 50th sacerdotal anniversary with a Fiesta, and instead asked them to help the poor in the Philippines in a meaningful way. With a simple thanksgiving Mass and fellowship for Fr. Paul on June 19, 2004, the Fr. Paul Lehman GK village was born. The initial pledge was enough to build 50 homes but the generous outpouring of love for Fr Paul and his love for the poor built a total of 70 homes, 60 of which are in Cabiao.

When the UST Medicine Class of 1976 chose the same site in Cabiao to build 40 homes, a partnership was forged, embracing a holistic approach covering the spiritual, social, and economic needs of the community.

Fr. Paul Lehman & UST Medical Class of 1976 GK villages worked together in various projects to help the village residents. The ECSL saw the fruit of the efforts in Cabiao and envisioned how BLD can be used powerfully if the global community were involved. Convinced that this is a direction of the Holy Spirit for BLD, the ECSL created the BLD GK Ministry on Jan. 16, 2006. On Feb. 6, 2006, Abp. Angel Lagdameo sent a pastoral letter to BLD communities worldwide entitled ‘Forward with Gawad Kalinga.’ He said, “It is time we refocus our sights on the Lord through our work with the poor and for the poor, then experience the miracles in our lives and in their lives. Let us set the Philippines on fire with GK love!”

On May 30, 2006, BLD and the Gawad Kalinga Community Foundation signed a Memorandum of Agreement forming a poverty alleviation partnership through the Gawad Kalinga Program. Since then BLD-GK has raised over 400 homes for the poor in 15 GK villages.

At present, there are more BLD Districts aside from the Newark cluster that are involved. BLD Detroit, Seattle, Vancouver, and Toronto are among those who have built their own villages. We have forged strong partnerships with outside organizations - BLD & GK, BLD & ANCOP, and BLD & UST Medical Class of 1976. Partnerships among global districts were also formed in building and sustaining the villages, like Toronto & Davao, Detroit & Lucian, and Manila & Newark.

Next Installment – BLD-GK Poverty Alleviation and Spiritual formation. What can you do?

COUNSEL *(continued from page 1)*

After 2000 years however, our difficulties as Christians come in different ways. May people think that the Bible is fiction. Even our government now agrees that prayer should not be allowed in public arena. Many people have forgotten God . Blood is being shed in the form of aborting innocent lives, desecrating the dignity of marriage, disrespect of human lives, including the elderly.

Before BLD, my understanding of God was very shallow, I can say that I have also forgotten what it takes it takes to follow God.

When I first became a member of BLD, I did not fully understand many things about our faith, our Church including Christ’s teachings. I did not understand forgiveness, power of the tongue, unconditional love, judgment and more. With God’s help and grace, He allowed me to persevere and understand and be open to many things He has in store for me. I admit that there were times I would prefer to just be at home and hang out with friends, but I kept coming back and kept coming back. Now, after almost 18 years, we are still here, continuing to learn and seek God.

To seek God and to know Him more is to seek heavenly things. To know ourselves that we may be changed to be a disciple in His image is to seek heavenly things. To know more about the teachings of the Catholic Church is to seek heavenly things, to read and understand scripture is to seek heavenly things. To seek God is to hear his voice and follow His command that He may lead us. The Lord’s promise in the Gospel says *“For the Lamb... will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* (Rev 7:17)

The Lord has led us all to BLD a spring of life-giving water because He is a good God. Through this community He allows us to encounter trials that He may build our character. He allows us to have difficulties that we may know how to call on Him and depend on Him. He allows us to suffer that we may know true happiness and true joy. He exposes our weaknesses so that those who are more mature may be able to guide us. He brings us community and personal problems that we may learn how to solve them the Christian way.

God is a very very good God. He loves us more than we can imagine. To prove His love, He suffered and died for us that we may have eternal life. Let us continue to serve Him and seek Him, our Lord Jesus Christ our King and our friend.

DIRECTIONS

1. Be active in declaring the works of the Lord. Use your spiritual gifts as witness to the power of the Holy Spirit and continue to proclaim the Good news through our encounter programs and mission work.
2. Talk about God's word. Make it your way of life that people will see and know Jesus in your person. Be the light and salt of the earth. Live Jesus daily.

GOD'S INVITATION... *(continued from page 1)*

From BLD Newark: Al & Au Cinco, Noy & Maricar Estiler, Roy & Rachel Santos, Rene & Clarita Monje, Eric & Genny Pedregosa, Vic & Rori Tiu, Angie Valeroso and Ellen Celis.

The retreat was sponsored by the Teaching Ministry and directed by Fr Lehman. All their shepherds came to give support to their candidates. Fr Paul, the special auxies, and the sharers inspired all of us this weekend.

The talks were on discipleship - the cost to us, its true test, and rewards. Discipleship in Community, prayer, procedure for discernment and the 8 point covenant were discussed, then they were invited by the Discipling Ministry to come to the sessions once the candidates have discerned God's plan for them.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church • Contacts: Ruben & Luz
Amarante • 908-810-1213 • Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Apr 24 • ME# 31**
Contacts: Emil/Baby Canlas 551.265.0719 • 551.265.0720
milesanac@yahoo.com • Frank/Malou Venadas

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing a Writing Contest for 2010!!!

Title: "What BLD means to Me"

Why are YOU in community? Let us know through an essay, poem, or song. Winning entries will be announced.

Email articles to word@bldnewark.com.

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY RETREAT

Please reserve **Apr. 24, 2010, 9-6pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 24

June 4-6 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY

Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ

Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina crisreff5@gmail.com,

Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net

Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 23 Teaching - **Intercessory Formation, Youth & Golden Years**
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit - **Solo Parents**

Apr 30 Intro to Intercession – **ME 34**
MGT - LSS 31-32 & Singles

May 01* Christian Maturity II – **LSS 31-32**
Encounter with Jesus – **LSS 33**
Apologetics – **LSS 29-30, Covenanted**

May 14 Teaching – **Youth**
Intro to Intercession – **Solo Parents**

May 15 Encounter with Jesus – **LSS 33**
Seven Anointings - Covenanted

May 21 Teaching - **Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6**
Intro to Intercession – **Singles**

May 28 Teaching - **Intercessory Formation, Youth, Golden Years**
Intro to Intercession – **Solo Parents**

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,651	46,915
Expenses	5,474	61,198
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,823)	(14,283)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays & wedding anniversaries this week



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 16

Bulletin Edition

April 30, 2010

BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS AND BUKLOD NG PAG-IBIG RELATIONSHIP

The purpose of this letter is to address questions raised by some members regarding the relationship between BLD and Buklod ng Pag-Ibig Foundation USA. We, the BLD Newark Stewards, met with Buklod ng Pag-ibig Council of Elders on March 23rd to discuss relationship.

Below are the key points from the meeting relevant to members' questions:

1. BLD and Buklod ng Pag-ibig are distinct & separate communities, with their own respective mission, charisms, diocesan accreditations, statutes, organization structure and pastoral authority.
2. BLD and Buklod ng Pag-ibig understand and respect the operative policies, procedures and structures in each community.
3. Therefore, requests for assistance by one community will be communicated directly to the responsible pastoral authority of the other community.
 - a. For BLD, the pastoral authority is the DCS, through the Mission Steward.
 - b. For Buklod ng Pag-ibig, it is their Council of Elders.

Just as in the case of Amazing Grace Prayer Community, St. Mary's Parish, and in the past-Deanery 20 in Newark, the global community policy on BLD-assisted parishes will be our guiding principle in dealing with requests for assistance from Buklod ng Pag-ibig.

We are blessed to be gifted with loving, servant-hearted members who built BLD into the vibrant, mission-oriented and fruitful community in the service of God's Kingdom. We pray that Buklod ng Pag-ibig, like all other Christian groups, may be similarly blessed, that God's reign may be established in all the earth.

For any questions or concerns regarding the above subject, please contact the DCS directly. The DCS will also answer questions at the forthcoming Disciples Assembly meeting this Saturday, April 24, 2010.

May our Lord continue to be our Good Shepherd who cares for His people, the sheep of His flock.

Our love and blessings, BLD Newark DCS

COUNSELS LOVE ONE ANOTHER

WORD: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:813; Rev 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

THEME: We are disciples of Christ when we follow His commandment of love.

ORDER: *"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."* (Jn 13:34)

REFLECTION:

Our Community Word for the month of May is: **Disciples of Christ have love for one another.** Jesus said: *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these commandments."* (Mt. 22: 36-40).

Being disciples of Jesus Christ does entail knowledge of the bible and the doctrines of the Church. But more importantly, we should live and share the love of God. We can only share God's love with others when we have an ongoing relationship with Jesus as we spend time with Him in prayer, meditation, obeying His Word, and in the frequent reception of the Sacraments. We can never over-emphasize this point. But if we examine ourselves honestly, we have to admit that we are still far from giving Jesus the first priority in our lives. For if we truly love God with all our heart, mind and spirit, we should have a heart that throbs with compassion for others, a forgiving heart devoid of resentment, hurts, anger, unforgiveness, a heart ready to help others, especially the poor. We should spend more time improving our spiritual life, making our character conform to that of Jesus. We should spend more time thinking of the goodness and mercy of God, how to follow Him, do His Will, and praise and thank Him for everything – for the wonder of creation, our very lives, our means of livelihood, our family, our neighbors, our co-workers, and all persons who come our way, appreciating and honoring them and their talents, for like us they too, are created in God's image. Then with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can begin to love others as we love ourselves. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God." (Rev 21:3b)

Editor's Note: We are including in this issue a copy of our Covenant with the Lord, that it may serve as a reminder and a guide when we discern our future undertakings. May the peace and love of Jesus Christ be with us all.

BLD Community Covenant

We believe that we, as persons, as a couple and as a family, are summoned by the Lord to membership in Bukas-loob sa Diyos Covenant Community and thus to the holy work of evangelizing and shepherding other persons, couples and families towards a personal relationship with God, through the encounter and the renewal apostolates, and through our own personal witnessing of authentic Christian love and faith, service and worship.

We believe that membership in the Spiritual Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos requires a total commitment of ourselves to the person of Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Savior. It means union of mind and heart and spirit with other Christian couples and their families, in obedience to God the Father and at the direction of the Holy Spirit. It means the operative belief that living faith in Jesus Christ is the essence of salvation, and that full Christian maturity develops only from the discipleship with Jesus Christ and love for others.

We profess communion with the Roman Catholic Church, believe in official Catholic doctrine, and observe official Catholic liturgy. We honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. And we acknowledge the Holy Father, the Pope, as the Vicar of Christ and the successor of Saint Peter.

We therefore pledge to the Lord and to the Community that:

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer. *Continued on page 4*

The Shepherd's Voice

"My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me." John (10:27)

I am a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But not unlike everyone else, I struggle with obedience. The Ten Commandments, traffic regulations, and even my employer's request for overtime are examples which quickly come to mind. The rules are simple enough, but the rebel in me oftentimes wins.

Why is this? Because I believe that I am better. Years of living almost solely in the secular world has trained my mind and my heart to work in a certain way. But this explanation hardly scratches the surface. I have led myself to believe that on my own and without our Lord's leadings, I can lead a successful life. Using my education, my skills and own hard work, my life will go according to my plans.

A recent experience has proved otherwise. I am not in control. *"But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep."* (John 10:26) I am nothing, and if my plans are not in accord with God's plans, then they are not for me. *"Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper. But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed."* (Jeremiah 7:23-24)

What am I holding on to that prevents me from obeying God's will in my life? Are these obstacles in line with our Lord's teachings? *"You have done all that Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded you, and have obeyed every command I gave you. For many years now you have not once abandoned your kinsmen, but have faithfully carried out the commands of the Lord, your God."* (Joshua 22:2-3)

By submitting our hearts to God and having faith in His promise, we are liberated from the shackles of pride and fear. *"If you continue to heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and are careful to observe all his commandments which I enjoin on you today, the Lord, your God, will raise you high above all the nations of the earth. When you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your God, all these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you."* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2) *"Blessed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! Blessed be your grain bin and your kneading bowl!"* (Deuteronomy 28:4-5)

I am a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your kind spirit guide me on ground that is level."* (Psalm 143:10)

COUNSEL (from page 1)

The theme for the 5th Sunday of Easter is: **We are disciples of Christ when we follow His commandment of love.** Just as the Lord is *“gracious and merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness, good to all and compassionate,”* (Ps 145:8-9) so too, should we be for Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us. While awaiting the return of Jesus, we should be supportive of one another and behave with mutual love, respect, and concern. This mutual love should be evident in our Christian life, that others may recognize us as true followers of Christ, thus giving witness to the beauty of our faith and attracting others to join us in community. The Blessed Teresa of Calcutta once said: *“True love of our neighbor is to wish him well and to do good to him.”*

For those who follow this commandment of Jesus, the Promise for the Week is: *“He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God.”* (Rev 21:3b)

For the 6th Sunday of Easter, the theme is: **We are disciples of Christ when we obey His word.** We can only obey the Word of God if we know the Word of God. This is only possible if we take time to read his word in the bible daily. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that God is the author of Sacred Scriptures, *“The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of the Sacred Scriptures, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,”* (CCC105). The Church forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful...to learn *“the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ’*, by frequent reading of divine scripture. *“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Jesus Christ,”* (CCC 133). The Promise for those who obey the Word of God is: *“...My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”* (Jn 14:23b)

For the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, the theme is: **We are disciples of Christ when we witness His forgiving love.** As Jesus commanded His disciples to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we too should give witness to His forgiving love. We do this when we periodically go to confession and live what we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer: *“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”* The Promise of the Week is: *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem.”* (Acts 1:8)

For Pentecost Sunday, the theme is: **We are disciples of Christ when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit.** Like the first disciples, we too have been given the Holy Spirit and His gifts. We need to exercise these gifts so we can live renewed lives in Christ. With Jesus in us, we can be made instruments in the renewal of others. But we need to constantly examine ourselves for the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life: *“Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”* (Gal 5:22). The promise of the week is: *“When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”* (Ps 104: 30)

The theme for the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity is: **We are disciples of Christ when we manifest the unity of the Most Holy Trinity.** The Pastoral Constitution ➔

The Only Way

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” (John 14:6)

Ever wonder what your *raison d’etre*, your reason for being is? Since the dawn of creation, all living things have probably wondered this. Man, in particular, with our gift of language and communication, has been able to document his many attempts at explanations.

Through all of these, the only one that makes sense is a belief in a Creator, Who willed it so. It makes sense then that we must seek to align our lives’ purpose to those of His.

In John 14:1, Jesus admonishes: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”* True that having faith in Him is believing that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. But it also involves following His teachings, that the only way to Him and His Father is by doing so.

In the seventeenth century, Rene Descartes philosophized that the proof of man’s existence was that *“I think, therefore I am”*. While this may be true, the subsequent take on this, *“I love therefore I am”* embodies even more truth.

Life is not really just about ourselves – but it really is more defined by our relationships with others. The self-centered sentiment of *“I think, therefore I am”* does not capture life’s true meaning. It is the *“other”* orientation of *“I love therefore I am”* that truly defines our lives and who we are.

The next step then seems to be defining who, what and how we love. Jesus taught us to love God above all else, and to love our neighbor. In that, He accurately depicts love of God and of others as the reason for being. It is not a want of material things. It is not a self-serving, *“what’s-in-it-for-me”* type of love. It even transcends beyond just loving those who will love us back.

The only way, really is to follow Him – our Truth, our Life, the Way. When one thinks about it, therein lie the answers to our *raison d’etre*. It is defined and embedded in and thru the relationships we have with God and our neighbors. It is defined by what we do for God and what we do for others – in other words, by who, what and how we love.

Dear Lord, I realize that You are the only Way. In the many things I do, please help me to always remember Your Way. May my actions follow Your way; may my life be lived in Your way. Only with God is there a purpose to our being, a purpose for life. It is only with You that I have true meaning.



of the Church says: *“The Church has been seen as a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,”* (Lumen Gentium 4). We belong to the Church so we should manifest the unity of the Most Holy Trinity in BLD. Our Covenant also states that we should commit ourselves to the Person of Jesus Christ and be united in heart, mind and spirit in obedience to God, our Father, and in response to the direction of the Holy Spirit. The Promise of the Week is: *“The Love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”* (Rom 5: 5) *Continued on page 4*

BLD Community Covenant (from page 3)

3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

"But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance." (Luke 8:15)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing a Writing Contest for 2010!!!

Title: "What BLD means to Me"

Why are YOU in community? Let us know through an essay, poem, or song. Winning entries will be announced.

Email articles to word@bldnewark.com.

Pentecost Sunday Eucharistic Celebration

Celebrated by Bishop Edgar Da Cunha

May 23 • 5:30pm • Queen of Peace, North Arlington, NJ
Potluck buffet @ 6:30pm @ the High School Auditorium.

Wear something representing BLD or anything RED.

Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities

(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles

Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

COUNSEL (from page 3)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Reach out to those who are hurting, those who are lost and those who are difficult to love.
2. Build a community of love.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 24

June 4-6 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Apr 30	Intro to Intercession – ME 34 MGT - LSS 31-32 & Singles
May 01*	Christian Maturity II – LSS 31-32 Encounter with Jesus – LSS 33 Apologetics – LSS 29-30, Covenanted
May 14	Teaching – Intercessory Formation, Solo Parents, Youth
May 15*	Encounter with Jesus – LSS 33 Seven Anointings - Covenanted
May 21	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 Intro to Intercession – Singles
May 28	Teaching - Youth, Golden Years

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

May 8 • SPM • Contact: SoloParents@bldnewark.com

Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,651	51,566
Expenses	(1,484)	59,714
Surplus/(Deficit)	6,135	(8,148)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS

COVENANT COMMUNITY

A Private Lay Association of the Faithful, Archdiocese of Newark, NJ

PROFIT & LOSS

FOR THE 1ST QTR ENDING CY10 vs. CY09

	CY10	CY09	\$ Change	% Change
INCOME				
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 39,433	\$ 47,658		
Other	200	1,444		
Total Income	\$ 39,633	\$ 49,102	\$ (9,469)	-19%
EXPENSES				
Venue Expenses	\$ 16,668	\$ 16,274		
Medical Mission*	14,261	(2,000)		
District Tithings	3,913	4,463		
Food	3,313	6,935		
Travel	2,777	3,639		
Printing & Supplies	2,517	2,199		
Insurance	1,802	1,851		
Stipends	1,000	850		
Soup Kitchen	590	1,157		
Retreats and Seminars	200	750		
Teaching Course	-	3,104		
Encounters and LSS	(427)	1,522		
Donations		556		
Others (under \$2,000)	2,219	2,250		
Total Expenses	\$ 48,833	\$ 43,548	\$ 5,285	12%
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (9,200)	\$ 5,554	\$ (14,754)	-266%

*2009 Medical Mission financial report was submitted after 1st quarter closing



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 17

Bulletin Edition

May 7, 2010

Archbishop of Newark Criticizes Same-Sex 'Marriage' Course at Seton Hall

Today, April 30, Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, issued a statement of censure regarding a proposed course on same-sex marriage at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.

"Archbishop Myers' strong statement and his efforts to correct this error at Seton Hall are comforting and gratifying to faithful Catholics," said Patrick J. Reilly, President of The Cardinal Newman Society. "CNS supports Bishop Myers in his consistent efforts to strengthen Catholic identity in Catholic education."

The proposed course at Seton Hall would begin in Fall 2010 and be taught by associate professor W. King Mott, an open homosexual who was demoted in 2005 after complaining about the Catholic Church's stance against homosexuality, LifeSiteNews reported.

The following is the statement issued by Archbishop John J. Myers:

As the shepherd of the Archdiocese of Newark, I am responsible for maintaining the Catholic identity of all Church institutions and organizations within the Archdiocese, and for ensuring authentic and orthodox Catholic teaching in all educational institutions and parishes. That responsibility extends to our Catholic elementary and high schools, to our parish religious education programs for both adults and children, and to the Catholic colleges and university operating within my jurisdiction.

Recent news that a course on same-sex marriage is proposed for the fall schedule at Seton Hall University troubles me greatly.

The Church teaches – and has continued to teach for two millennia – that marriage is a union of man and woman, reflecting the complementarity of the sexes. That teaching precedes any societal connotation of marriage, and is based on natural law.

This proposed course seeks to promote as legitimate a train of thought that is contrary to what the Church teaches. As a result, the course is not in synch with Catholic teaching.

Consequently, the Board of Trustees of Seton Hall have asked the Board of Regents to investigate the matter of this proposed course, and to take whatever action is required under the law to protect the Catholicity of this university.

When he met with Catholic *continued on page 2*

COUNSELS SUBMISSION

WORD: Acts 15:22-29; Ps 67:2-6,8; Rev 21:10-14,22-23; Jn 14:23-29

THEME: We are disciples of Christ when we obey His word.

ORDER: Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

REFLECTION:

Brothers and Sisters, when you go through the readings of the 6th Sunday of Easter, you will notice three things they have in common, and that is, as Christians we are called to do all things with the Spirit of Christ. In other words, we all are called: (1) to walk in Christian spirit; (2) to do all things in the Spirit; and, (3) to walk with the Spirit of Christ.

To walk in the Christian spirit involves embracing of certain characteristics. The first, and the most important, is the attribute of unity, all members being of one spiritual mind. Through unity, there is harmony. Through harmony, there is strength. Through strength, there is perseverance in the living faith. And in the end, those who are joined in the Christian spirit achieve their goal - eternal life and salvation through Jesus Christ.

As we see in the First Reading, the Christian spirit does not come by itself. One has to strive towards it by seeking the divine will of God and then embracing the authority of the Church. In the early days of the Church, certain individuals came down from Judea and taught that unless one was circumcised according to the custom of Moses, he could not be saved. Seeking the divine will of God on the matter, Paul, Barnabas and some of the others were sent to Jerusalem to consult the apostles and elders. Consequently the Church authorities made a decision and sent Barsabbas and Silas to report back to the believers. Through these progressive actions is seen the Christian spirit at work.

In the Second Reading, we perceived the Christian spirit at work through some of the descriptive words that are given to us. *"I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb,"* [Rev 21:22-23].

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"...my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." (John 14:23b)

IN HIM IS PEACE

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.” (John 14:27)

All seek peace but very few find it because many do not know and do not follow the right way to obtain it. Some seek it in creatures, others in having things go according to their will. True peace can only be found in God, by gratefully accepting from His hand the good and the evil that befalls us – in short by conforming our will to His will. The more perfect our will conforms to His will, the more complete will our peace be.

Nothing happens in the universe without God willing and allowing it. With the exception of sin, this statement must be taken as absolutely true. It is easy to follow God’s will in time of consolation. The problem is when we are confronted by adversity.

Typhoons and flooding in the Philippines, earthquake in Haiti- Lord, what more do you want from them? They are already poor. Reversal of fortunes, loss of employment- Lord, why me? A family loses a father with children still very young- what are You doing to us? How will we survive?

We should not let ourselves be troubled when we are sometimes beset by adversities, for we know that it is meant for our spiritual well being and carefully selected by God to suit our needs, and that a limit has set to it by the love and wisdom of God. If we are now suffering, remember that the author of this suffering is He who chose to spend His life suffering and saves us from everlasting torment. The bitter chalice He offers us is a bitter one but remember that it is your Redeemer who offers it. He is a witness to all we are suffering.

His works are so perfect that they could not be improved and so good that they could not be better. As St. Basil said “we are the work of a good workman and that He dispenses and distributes to us all things great and small with the wisest providence so that there is nothing bad, nothing that could even be conceived better.

What may appear a scourge and punishment is often a sign of great grace and mercy. So let us then offer ourselves with our whole heart to the will of God, without seeking our own interests, neither in little or much, always thanking Him both in prosperity and in adversity.

Reflect well on this. It should be enough to make us accept and love whatever trials He intends for us. Truly and without doubt, the will of God is our Peace!

Archbishop of Newark ... (from page 1)

educators two years ago during his visit to the United States, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, spoke of the need for authenticity and adherence to Catholic identity. “Teachers and administrators,” he said, “whether in universities or schools, have the duty and privilege to ensure that students receive instruction in Catholic doctrine and practice. This requires that public witness to the way of Christ, as found in the ➤

IN HIM IS JOY

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” (John 15:9-11)

God made us to be happy. Happiness is the very mystery of His being. Happiness is to love and be loved. We all want to be happy, it is a desire engraved in our hearts because God has created us in “His image and likeness.” But not too many of us are truly happy! Why? And if we are happy, it is for a short time.

What we may consider as happiness is often brought about by temporary satisfaction of the senses, thus we tend to idolize the object, person, or occasion as the source of happiness. But this does not really last.

One who seeks God always finds joy. This is the first fruits produced in our soul (Gal. 5:22). God becomes our companion and we look to Him as the guarantor of joy itself. Joy and sorrow are intermingled on many occasions in life. There is joy that comes from sorrow, from suffering for a loved one- sacrificing for a loved one- just as Jesus died on the cross because of His love for us. Jesus came to the world so that we have a relationship with Him and others- an expression of joy. ‘My joy in You. Your joy complete.’

Our joy is not dependent on the world’s response but rather Jesus’ joy in us. It means that we can experience the wonder and abundance of life in the midst of the worst that comes. When we welcome the discomfort of life because it brings simplicity, humility and contentment in our lives counting our blessings, keeping Jesus Christ as the center of our lives. This is joy.

The harmonizing of joy and sorrow is through love. Joy is dependent on our deep desire in Jesus, in God -that His Joy be in us and that we remain attached like a branch to its vine.

Let us draw our strength, wisdom, courage, patience, love, generosity, kindness and compassion from Jesus Christ. Many times we find out that remaining attached to Him like a branch to the vine is not easy. Loving one another, even our enemies and loving unconditionally as He does may even cause hatred towards us. There is resistance to experience joy.

We therefore have to proclaim this joyful message to rejoice in the Lord always. Testify to that joy by being a witness to God’s mercy, forgiveness, love and compassion.

Gospel and upheld by the Church's Magisterium, shapes all aspects of an institution's life, both inside and outside the classroom.” Source www.cardinalnewmansociety.org

COUNSEL (from page 1)

Here we are able to perceive the unity of the people under one God, the Lamb. There are no idols. Nor are there any man-made religions whose leaders get the credit for establishing faiths that differ from the sacred teachings of Jesus. And, we also perceived the people's quality of holiness because they all belonged to the city of Jerusalem, the Holy City.

In the Gospel, we read and perceive that the Christian unity reigns among those who obeyed the command of Jesus. The command of Jesus was, **"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them,"** [Jn 14:23]. Those who love Jesus are of one spiritual mind with the others who also obey the command of the Lord.

When considering our presence in the celebration of the Eucharist and/or our Corporate Worship, oneness of mind and heart are signs of our Christian spirit. United in one faith in the Lord Jesus, we gather for Sunday and corporate worship to praise and adore the Lord, our God. In the Catholic spirit, we are united to receive the blessings that are bestowed upon those who receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist that is the Living Bread.

The second common factor that is found in all of the three readings is that we are called to do all things in the spirit. Jesus said, **"The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth,"** [Jn 4:23-24].

What does it mean to do all things in the spirit or to worship in spirit? It means that when we received the Sacrament of Baptism, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we become a new creation raised from death to walk a new life in Christ [Rom 6:4; Col 2:12] (628). Without the Sacrament of Baptism through water and Spirit, we could not enter the Kingdom of God, [Jn 3:5].

This gift of God, instituted through Jesus Christ in the New Covenant, fulfills the promises of the Old Testament. During the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive a new heart and a new human spirit, [Ez 11:19-20; 18:31]. Through our new heart, we have become children of light. We are blessed with a spiritual mind that enables us to worship God in spirit and in truth.

In the Gospel, we hear Jesus say, **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid,"** [Jn 14:27]. When we do not do all things in the spirit, our hearts are troubled. We are afraid because deep inside we know that we are in disobedience and in the wrath of God. We are afraid because the Spirit of Christ talks to us in our hearts and reminds us that we are not walking in the spirit. The peace of Christ comes to us when we obediently submit ourselves to God's divine will through the authority of the Church. Then, we are blessed with divine peace; we are no longer troubled or afraid. The mixed feelings we may have, fade away.

The third common factor in the readings is that we are called to walk with the Spirit of Christ. When we walk with
Continued on page 4

Father Paul Speaks

"We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings." (Rom 8:26) In this verse we can take our lead for the great feast of Pentecost which climaxes the Easter celebration on May 23rd. We usually do not picture the persons of the Blessed Trinity interceding for us. We are more comfortable praying TO Them. We can easily picture the glorified human Jesus praying for us at the right hand of the Father, as our heavenly priest. But the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit's power of intercession is not the same as our passive begging God for some favor or forgiveness. The formal and liturgical way of prayer is to the Father through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. When we pray "in the Spirit" we are yielding to the work of the Spirit, and our prayer becomes the Spirit's prayer. The Spirit, always present around and in us, pours His anointing power into our hearts, and our prayer which seems so personal, becomes a prayer of and in the Spirit. Our daily prayer and contemplation should be a flow over from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer becomes one with the intercession of the Holy Spirit. If we "yield" properly to the work of the Spirit, the words of Jesus become a reality. **"If you live in me and my words live in you, ask what you will, and it will be done for you."** (Jn 15:7) There is a big "if" in that verse. Abiding in Jesus means we have become so identified with Him, that it would be impossible for us to ask for something that was not already the will of God. We intercede not to change the mind of God, but to become identified with His will. Our intercession then becomes infallible. Maybe and probably we are not at that point in our walk with the Lord. But should it not be our goal?

As members of the BLD community we are always part of the intercessory ministry. When we pray and intercede we should **"have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God,"** (Phil 4:6), I sense that sometimes we pray in a panic, worrying that perhaps we are not praying "hard" enough, and that God will not answer us until we have done something extraordinary, or we think to get somebody "holier" than we are to pray for our intentions, hoping that their prayer might be more effective. The focus here is on ourselves instead of on the "intercession" of the Holy Spirit. Trust your prayer. God wants to bless us more than we could possibly realize.

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

May 8 • SPM • Contact: SoloParents@bldnewark.com

Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

COUNSEL (from page 3)

the Spirit of Christ, we shine in the fruit of the Spirit. These are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," [Gal 5:22-3].

Those who walk with the Spirit of Christ are led by the Spirit. When the apostles and the elders reviewed the issue of circumcision that Paul and Barnabas brought before them, it was done with the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. This truth is affirmed in the content of the response that the Church authority sent to Antioch, Syria and Cilicia, which read: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." In other words, they were walking in the Spirit of Christ, proclaiming spiritual wisdom that had been made known to them through the Holy Spirit.

During the reading from the Gospel of John, Jesus made reference to the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send in His Name. Such was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost [Acts 2:1] when the Lord Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon His disciples, [Jn 20:22; Acts 2:2-4]. At that moment, the official ministry of the Holy Spirit began on earth.

In making known to us the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit's ministry is twofold: To build up the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, the seat of its visible nature in Rome, and its invisible reflection in the holy city with its seat in Jerusalem where the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church had its beginnings. The unity of the two forms the mystical Body of Christ, the Church also being known as the Bride of Christ. The second goal is to sanctify us in Christ so we may be purified and transformed in the likeness of Jesus.

In consideration of all what has been said until now, in the Christian spirit, we are called to do all things in the spirit with the Spirit of Christ. The three applications of the word "spirit" cannot be separated. It is by the power of the Spirit of Christ that we become new creations, that we are being transformed into holy beings, and that we are being moved to imitate the love of Christ towards all our brothers and sisters. Without the Spirit of Christ, we would be spiritually dead.

Through the same Holy Spirit, we are drawn towards Jesus in the unity of the Christian spirit. Through the same Holy Spirit, we are sanctified in the likeness of Christ. Through the same Holy Spirit, the works of God are manifested through our humble persons who are subject to Christ in obedience and humility.

DIRECTIONS

1. Pray to the Holy Spirit for discernment.
2. Defer/consult to higher authorities for guidance.

SUGGESTED PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit to me? What is He to me?
2. Do I allow the Holy Spirit to control my life?
3. What are the things that I do to embrace the Christian spirit

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter 35

May 14-16 • Radisson Inn, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Nong & Tricia Bustos 908-208-1705 or
MLA Ministry mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter 24

June 4-6 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up

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Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

May 14	Teaching – Youth Intro to Intercession – Solo Parents
May 15	Encounter with Jesus – LSS 33 Seven Anointings - Covenanted
May 21	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 Intro to Intercession – Singles
May 28	Teaching - Intercessory Formation, Youth, Golden Years

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,723	54,289
Expenses	2,090	61,803
Surplus/(Deficit)	633	(7,514)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing a Writing Spotlight for 2010!!

Title: "What BLD means to Me"

Why are YOU in community? Let us know through an essay, poem, or song. Winning entries will be announced.

Email articles to word@bldnewark.com.

Pentecost Sunday Eucharistic Celebration

Celebrated by Bishop Edgar Da Cunha

May 23 • 5:30pm • Queen of Peace, North Arlington, NJ
Potluck buffet @ 6:30pm @ the High School Auditorium.

Wear something representing BLD or anything RED.

Contact: Frank & Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities

(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles

Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 18

Bulletin Edition

May 14, 2010

NEWS

POPE BENEDICT XVI TO BRAZIL: REDISCOVER THE EUCHARIST

VATICAN CITY, MAY 9, 2010 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The heart of Brazil is the Eucharist, Benedict XVI said today ahead of the 16th National Eucharistic Congress, to be held May 13-16 in Brasilia.

In his greetings after praying the Regina Caeli with those gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Pope expressed his spiritual closeness to the Brazilian people, "who are going to gather in their capital, Brasilia, from next Thursday to Sunday, to celebrate the 16th National Eucharistic Congress, with the presence of my special envoy, Cardinal Cláudio Hummes."

He said in Portuguese: "May you all, pastors and faithful people, rediscover that the heart of Brazil is the Eucharist."

"In the motto of the Congress appear the words of the disciples of Emmaus, 'Stay with us, Lord,' expression of the desire that beats in the heart of every human being," he continued. "It is in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar where Jesus shows his will to be with us, to live with us, to give himself to us," the Pontiff added.

Benedict XVI explained that "this adoration leads us to recognize the primacy of God, as He can transform men's hearts, raising them to union with Christ in only one Body," to the point that "we experience communion with a Love that we cannot keep for ourselves: it calls for being communicated to others so as to be able to build a more just society."

Recalling the forthcoming closure of the Year for Priests, the Holy Father invited all priests to "cultivate a profoundly Eucharistic spirituality, following the example of the Holy Curé d'Ars that, who, seeking to unite his personal sacrifice with Christ's actualized on the altar, exclaimed: 'What good a priest does in offering himself in sacrifice to God every morning!'"

Benedict XVI took leave of the pilgrims imploring the intercession of the patroness of Brazil, Our Lady of Aparecida, "so that, nourished by the Eucharist, bread of Unity, you will be true Missionary Disciples."

COUNSELS

WITNESSING CHRIST'S FORGIVING LOVE

WORD: Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9; Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26

THEME: We are disciples of Christ when we witness to His forgiving love.

ORDER: *"Let the one who thirsts come forward and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water."* (Rev 22:17)

REFLECTION: The theme for the 7th Sunday of Easter is: "We are disciples of Christ when we witness to His forgiving love." Knowing what the difference is between acting as a witness and being a Christian witness – that is the daily challenge we all face in our lives as Jesus' disciples. It starts and is shown by our faith in our God, with fear of our Lord, by our obedience to His will, by following His laws, by living a Christ-centered life, by showing good deeds as a fruit of our obedience, by leading through our example, by being ambassadors for Christ.

As Christian witnesses, we are called to be examples to others, models of hope in our Lord's salvation, ambassadors of Christ to all, teachers to our children, for this is a precondition to eternal life:

"I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds....Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates." (Rev 22:12-14)

Right before He suffered and died, our Lord Jesus first prayed to our Father for Himself, then for His apostles, then for the succeeding generations – for all of us – His church! The Lord truly acted as a living witness to the

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates."

(Rev 22:14)

HEAVENLY INHERITANCE

“He will glorify me because He will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that He will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16: 14-15)

When talking of inheritance, the first thing that comes into one’s mind is earthly riches or material goods willed by a wealthy father to an heir; however, only few are blessed to receive this.

On the other hand, there is another type of inheritance known to the community of believers as “Heavenly Inheritance” that far exceeds the value of the earthly one because it is willed by the Divine Father and can be possessed by many.

In the preaching of the kingdom, Jesus called all people to eternal life; and He assures everyone a share of this inheritance. Before His Ascension to heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, to give life to those who accept Him: the “guarantee” of inheritance (CCC 1103). Further, those who believe in God have been given the “*spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in the knowledge of the Him*” (Ephesians 1:17). “*The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God... heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.*” (Romans 8:16-17a)

Does everyone know that they are children of God and co-heirs of this heavenly inheritance? If so, is being a co-heir sufficient to enter the kingdom? The answer is **no**. We continue to stray into sin, but God’s grace and mercy allow us to repent and to be forgiven and reconciled to our Father. The grace of God coming through the Holy Spirit makes us collaborators in salvation for ourselves and others (CCC 2008). Thus, what is our duty as Christians? As co-heirs, we are to be “*a light to the Gentiles ... [and an] instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 13: 47). For those who do not know that they are co-heirs, we therefore need to participate in God’s plan of salvation, by preaching, teaching, and witnessing without arrogance and feelings of superiority but with love and humility.

Finally, let us persevere in prayer, in doing good works, and trusting in God’s mercy that we may receive the crown of glory promised by our loving Father: **eternal life**, defined as living forever with the Triune God in the happiness of heaven, entered after death by the souls of those who die in the grace and friendship of God. (CCC 1023).

May the blessings and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

ST. MATTHIAS

“The lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.” (Acts 1:26b)

St. Matthias was born in Judea in the first century, but no actual date of his birth has been verified. Matthias had been a disciple of Jesus Christ since the time of His baptism and he was chosen to replace Judas after his death. Matthias’ life as an apostle has many different variations and versions of how he died. St. Matthias is the patron saint of alcoholism, carpenters, smallpox, and tailors. His feast day is May 14.

According to the book of The Acts of The Apostles, during the days following Jesus’ Ascension, Peter proposed that a new apostle be selected to replace Judas Iscariot. Peter proposed this to the one hundred and twenty disciples that had gathered in Jerusalem. Peter wanted the new apostle to be a person who had been with Jesus from the time of His baptism till the time He ascended. The two main candidates were Joseph, called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. “*Then they prayed to Jesus, ‘You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go in his own place.’ Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.*” (Acts 1:24-26).

There are many different stories of Matthias’ life after he became an apostle. One account says that Matthias went from Judea to Colchis, which is now Ethiopia, where he would preach the Gospel to barbarians and cannibals. He was then crucified and buried near a Roman fortress in Colchis. Another story says that Matthias was in Jerusalem preaching when he met his death at the hands of angry Jews who had him stoned and then beheaded.

There are also many stories about his writings. It was said that he wrote one of the lost gospels, the Gospel of Matthias. St. Clement of Alexandria ascribed this quote to Matthias: “we must combat our flesh, set no value upon it, and concede to it nothing that can flatter it, but rather increase the growth of our soul by faith and knowledge.” There are still some opposing speculations on whether or not this lost gospel was actually written by St. Matthias.

A lot of mystery still surrounds St. Matthias. The information about him is still uncertain, such as the way he died, the writings that are claimed to be his, and aspects on how and where he spent his time as an apostle. But what is certain is he had a devotion to God and Jesus Christ, and spread the word of God.

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

THE VOICE OF GOD

“And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” 1 John 5:14

A man, worried about his ailing 87-year-old wife, went about 30 yards from her while she worked in her garden, and called her name. She did not answer. He went 15 yards closer and called her again with no reply. Worried that she might have lost her sense of hearing, he stood behind her back and called her name. This time, however, the wife answered, “you have called me three times, what is it that you want?”

Sometimes we worry if God hears us. In 1 John 5:13-14 *“I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God. And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”* Should we not rather worry about us hearing God's voice?

Moses, who is said to have received his orders directly from God, saw only the tail of His garment every time God spoke to him and wanted something said to His people. In a dream Joseph, son of David, was told not to be afraid to take Mary, his wife, into his home, that it was through the Holy Spirit that the child had been conceived in her, and that she would bear a son, whom he would name Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. These are some of the examples mentioned in Scripture about the way people heard the voice of the Lord.

“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am,” I said; “send me!” (Isaiah 6:8b), a CDFP favorite.

BLD is a tool that verbalizes the voice of the Lord that can lead us to where He wants us to be in life. We just have to be aware and attuned to the Shepherd's voice.

The Shepherd's voice is the voice of God that keeps us on that narrow road to life eternal. Like the shepherd of goats and sheep that leads his flock to green pastures, He protects us from thieves and other predators. His flock knows and recognizes His voice. In this space age of technology, we hear the Shepherd's voice through the Scriptures, Catechism, Cannon Law, traditions and Dogma of the Catholic Church to name a few. To listen and follow the Shepherd's voice we have to believe in all the teachings of the Catholic Church and put these into action without exception because these are God's words and this is our Faith given to us by our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the true Shepherd, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

SAVE THE DATE...

This year's annual BLD Dinner Dance will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 16** at the VFW in Manville, NJ. Mark your calendars and plan to join the whole BLD Community and friends for an evening of good food, dancing and fun.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

virtue of prayer – maintaining a personal connection to His Father – our Father.

Stephen followed the Lord Jesus' example of His forgiving love. In his last words, as he was being stoned to death, Stephen commended his spirit to Jesus, just as Jesus commended His to the Father. Stephen prays for his enemies and forgives his attackers, *“Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’”* (Acts 7:60) We remember the words of Jesus on the cross before He died for our sins, *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”* (Lk 23:34)

As followers and witnesses of the Lord Jesus, we are constantly reminded to pray – just as He taught us all. We are taught to pray for our loved ones, ourselves, our Church, and even those who we perceive to be persecuting us. The Word of God is ripe with all of our Lord's teachings on this. He tells us to love and pray for them:

“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father...” (Mt 5:44-45)

He tells us to also do good, and to bless them:

“But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic.” (Lk 6:27-29)

Jesus, during His agony in Gethsemane, prayed for the Church to be one. *“Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you.”* (Jn 17:20-21)

We all are aware of how things have evolved in the Church through the years to become what it is today. Undoubtedly, our Lord already knew all these during the hours He was deep in prayer before He was glorified. His desire was that He bring everyone destined to be with Him into His eternal presence. *“Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me...”* (Jn 17:24) The struggle for unity has been ongoing throughout history – in the Catholic Church, through the rest of Christianity and among other religions and nations. Continue to pray for unity in the Church, in our nations, in our homelands and in our communities.

DIRECTIONS As we heed and follow the Lord's voice, let us also yield to His directions for ourselves:

1. Pray for those who persecute you.
2. Pray for unity

OUR VISION & MISSION

Vision

Community - We are a communion of families and a community of persons, called together as one people through a moment of encounter and a process of renewal, to a relationship of faith, hope and love with God.

Christian - We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, by our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and by our uniting compassion with one another.

Charismatic - We are blessed with personal gifts, spiritual and natural, innate or acquired, which we yield to the Word and Spirit.

Caring and Giving - We give freely and fully of ourselves and love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's kingdom.

Covenant Discipleship - Through our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, we commit as disciples to be a countersign to all that is at war with the teachings of our Lord, and to emerge victorious in living and sharing the values of our Christian faith.

Mission

The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
- Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
- Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
- Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
- Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.
- Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all youth 15-19 years of age

WHAT: YE #17 Retreat WHEN: July 9-11, 2010
CYO Retreat House, 499 Belgrove Dr, Kearny, NJ
Contact Youth Ministry or Ray and Susie Atienza
asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or 908-463-0449

Pentecost Sunday Eucharistic Celebration

Celebrated by Bishop Edgar Da Cunha
May 23 • 5:30pm • Queen of Peace, North Arlington, NJ
Potluck buffet @ 6:30pm @ the High School Auditorium.
Wear something representing BLD or anything RED.
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July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ
Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles
Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles
Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Singles Encounter 24

June 4-6 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Auditorium Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 • Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **May 22-ME# 30** Contacts:
Norie/Miriam Abes 973.633.9133 normir1010@yahoo.com
Mosty/Ling Garcia mtg7lra@aol.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

TEACHING CALENDAR

May 14	Teaching - Youth Intro to Intercession - Solo Parents
May 15	Encounter with Jesus - LSS 33 Seven Anointings - Covenanted
May 21	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 Intro to Intercession - Singles
May 28	Teaching - Intercessory Formation, Youth, Golden Years

Note: Teachings on Fri: after worship • *Sat: 1-6pm

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,948	57,237
Expenses	5,666	67,470
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,718)	(10,233)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 19

Bulletin Edition

May 21, 2010

BLD-Newark Welcomes the New Family of ME#35

As in the words of our Lord Jesus from His prayer.... *"I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them."* (Jn 17:9-10), we too continue to pray for those who answered His call to attend the ME 35 weekend as we offer them to our Heavenly Father.

We praise and thank the Lord for His abundant blessings of laborers in His vineyard and all the necessary provisions to carry on His will to bring His healing love to all. The BLD community has once again witnessed to others the seed of love and humility that the Lord has implanted in us.

The fruits of our labor are the result of our efforts as one community and one body in Christ. Truly the Holy Spirit has guided the sponsoring class (ME 34), the Pastoral Team (Fr. Paul Lehman, Fr. Dave Sison, Chito & Aileen Ciocon, Bong & Merle Encarnacion), the different ministries involved (MLA, Praise, Liturgy, Intercessory, Service, Coach & Witness Development, Teaching), the DCS & DSL, the incoming class shepherds (Paby & Pauline Ibarrola) and the whole BLD community for the prayers offered for the weekend.

Let us embrace the ME 35 graduates with outstretched and loving arms; Jhune & Jean Afante*, Paul & Steph Anciano, Norman & Lourdes Belen, Charles & Joyce Cababe*, Mon & Dorie Cartasano, Al & Blessie Chiu, Ed & Liza Curbita, Weni & Fatima Darwin*, Ibar & Alona Dinampo, Vince & Roselyn Francia, Jojo & Bing Gabriel*, Bien & Angie Lucas, Antonio & Marilyn Pena, Brian & Mayen Rayack, Jean-Robert & Marie-Jose Richard, Rajjie & Rizza Mae Yap.

*Coordinators

*Make the Covenant News
part of your Covenant Life*

COUNSELS

Commitment to Growth

WORD: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1,24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

THEME: We are disciples of Christ when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

ORDER: ***"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained."*** (John 20:23)

REFLECTION:

The disciples, whom Jesus left after His suffering, death and resurrection, were all together, locked up in one place, filled with fear. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in their midst greeting them ***"Peace be with you."*** They all rejoiced at seeing Him, because then, they were certain without any doubt that Jesus was alive. Then Jesus offered peace the second time. ***"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you' and when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20:21-23)***

Miraculously, a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit shows in these elements. Fire appears in Sacred Scriptures as love which penetrates all things, and also, is a purifying element. Fire also produces light and signifies the new brightness which the Holy Spirit sheds on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. ***"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all the truth... He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."*** (John 16:13a,14)

Thus, the rushing wind on the day of Pentecost expresses the new force with which Divine love invades the Church and its members. In order that the apostles carry out the identical mission that Jesus received from the Father after ***Continued on page 3***

Promise of the Week

"When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 104:30)

ABIDE IN CONFIDENCE

“I bless the LORD who counsels me; even at night my heart exhorts me. I keep the LORD always before me; with the Lord at my right, I shall never be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure, For you will not abandon me to Sheol, nor let your faithful servant see the pit.” (Ps 16:7-10)

Many times one may ponder on why complications and hardships have to part of one’s life in seeking for true happiness but kept falling short on its own expectation. Having strived to attain a good education to gain financial success in order to have the affordability to purchase big beautiful homes, jewelry, electronic gadgets, expensive cars and ability to travel all over the world in a luxurious lifestyle pampered by servants and to feel guilt-free from all the worries of this world that we live in. Despite achieving all these things; one may pose these questions: Did we not have everything the world can offer? Do we not feel deserving to all these things despite the efforts we have put in to become successful in this world? If so, then why is there a feeling of emptiness still in one’s life? Is there something that we have missed?

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’(Jn14:6). This scripture directly point out that we need not have to look further more to fill our empty lives for as long we have our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ deeply rooted in our hearts and be conscious to call HIM at all times.

“There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.” (Acts 4:12) Several times in the book of Acts, the narrative speaks of being “saved” which reminds us that Jesus is the only Savior of the world. While others believe that “getting saved” is a one-time event, but scriptures clearly show salvation is a process that includes faith, repentance, baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and lifelong conversion. The Bible speaks of our salvation in three tenses.

- 1) We have been saved from a life of slavery to sin. (Rom 8:24)
- 2) We are being saved as we daily clothe ourselves in Christ. (1 Pt 3:21)
- 3) We will be saved forever if we persevere to the end (Mt10:22; Mk13:13)

So, Brothers and Sisters, let’s all abide in confidence in our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST!

Stewardship - It’s a way of life!

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

Ministry Matters

THE SINGLES MINISTRY

The Singles Ministry is comprised of unmarried young adults, aging from 20 years and older. The members are in different stages of their lives where in some are still in studying in college, others work part-time or have full-time jobs and some juggle between both school and work. No matter where we are in our lives, our love for JESUS unites us together.

Each Friday at 8:00 pm, we meet at the basement of St. Mary’s school (Connell Hall), to praise and worship our LORD. No matter what we are going through in our lives, we put it all aside to spend time with JESUS. Through prayer, music, and fellowship we are able to remain in our LORD.

JESUS tells us in John 15: 5 and 8, ***“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”*** Through this ministry, we believe that we all strive to become HIS disciples to bear good fruit and become the people GOD created us to be.

The Singles Ministry is currently led by our Ministry Coordinators, Tito Manny and Tita Arlene Mangalonzo. They are assisted by (3) core members who lead different parts of the ministry: Eric Cruz (Evangelization), Pauline Montemayor (Formation), and Carol Manguiat (Management).

Within each team are other Singles members called Pillars who help with the organization and growth of our ministry. Our goal is to evangelize to others as much as we can and help one another increase in our spiritual life.

Our Singles Encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars (held twice a year) bring other young adults closer to GOD in a more intimate way. Our volunteers work in soup kitchens and nursing homes help nourish our spiritual growth. In addition, we coordinate with other young adult ministries to worship our Lord together. Events such as the “Festival of Praise” gather various communities to praise and worship our Lord as well as fellowship with one another. The “Theology on Tap” events, held at different restaurants, involve speakers talking to us about various topics that help increase our faith and knowledge of GOD.

The Singles Ministry inspires and challenges every member to live the life for the LORD and not for the world. We welcome everyone to join our Singles worships and in various events.

May we continue to do the good works the LORD has begun in us and become HIS disciples to bear much fruit as HE has called us to be.

Unity In Community

“Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are.” (John 17:11b)

The Lord’s Prayer in John 17:11b gives us a new understanding of the unity the Lord calls us to as His family, His community, His Church.

The Lord describes this “unity” as His disciples being one, as the Father and the Son are one. There is a *transcendence* required in the Lord’s vision of unity for His Church. After all, His disciples are human and incapable by themselves of achieving the perfect unity of the Divine Trinity. This transcendence is possible only through grace.

The unity we are called to is not attained independent or separate from God. It is possible only with and in God, when we are one with Him, when our life is joined to His and we become subsumed in His Being. Unity is a state of being one with God, expressed in being one with each other.

Harmony and accord per se do not make for unity. These qualities are also present in godless associations of men. Rather, harmony and accord, when founded in God’s love and God’s will, are the fruit and signs of a community that is one with God. Harmony and accord are expressed in forgiveness and reconciliation among brethren in community.

We may ask the question, how then do we explain the discord, conflict and division that engulfed Christian communities, even the Church, as can be gleaned from its history? How do we explain our own past experiences with discord in our own community? There are no simple answers to this, but we offer this principle: unity is a grace that we need to live up to in this life.

Because of sin, we will struggle, we will fail to love and to obey God’s will from time to time. If we are so weak and imperfect, where then do we base our confidence? Hebrews 4:15-16 gives us the assurance that we do not have a God “who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been similarly tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace or receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. 1 Peter 1:4-5 assures us that our inheritance is kept in heaven for us by the power of God. We just need to persevere in faith, hope and love.

The Lord gave us His name as a mark of our unity as His family. God gave us the Holy Family- Joseph, Mary and Jesus- as a model of unity to emulate. Finally, let us also trust in the Lord’s promise: *“While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost, except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled.”* (John 17:12) The Lord is with us!

COUNSEL (from page 1)

He “breathes” into them (John 20:22), they in turn continue His work of transforming the world by cleansing it from sin and recreating it in the Spirit. Since the mandate of Christ is both to forgive and to retain sin, we have to remember, it is still Jesus who is the High Priest who gives us Divine healing. He works through our Priests in giving us absolution of our sins and lead to supernatural life which is eternal heaven, it says: “if you have sinned, you should tell each other what you have done, then you can pray for one another and be healed.”

Whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and many of their sins will be forgiven. (James 5:16, 20). Confession can assist us in spiritual warfare. The Spirit of Divine love flowing from the disciples is now alive in our church and community built from age to age. Yes, these gifts continue to flow today.

St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, says: *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.”* (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

When we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we literally have “God’s breath” within us. If today we let God breathe His Spirit into us, we ourselves can experience the miracle of “LOVE” in a language that everyone can understand. We can begin to love and care for one another. We begin to realize that we were placed here by God to do some good that no one else could do. It may be a kindness shown to someone who is part of our lives for only a brief while; or it may be the example we give to people we don’t even notice, but who in the providence of God crosses the path of our life and notice us.

Do we still carry in our hearts that burning desire and that spiritual upliftment after receiving the Holy Spirit during LSS weekend? This is now the time to renew ourselves, spend time to reflect what the Spirit has done in us. The Holy Spirit continually fills our hearts to live peacefully with our fellow men. We are created new through baptism and confirmation. Together with the Holy Spirit, we work to renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

DIRECTIONS

- ✓ Spend some quiet time with the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Be prepared to do the mission God has entrusted to us.
- ✓ Make bold your proclamation about what God has done in your life after LSS.
- ✓ Do not be afraid to use your gifts.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)
Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante
908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION **Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **May 22-ME# 30** Contacts:
Norie/Miriam Abes 973.633.9133 normir1010@yahoo.com
Mosty/Ling Garcia mtg7lra@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENTECOST SUNDAY

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC MASS

May 23 • 10am, St. Antoninus Church
Come join the St. Antoninus Parish with Pastor Fr. Bill Halbing to experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the Pentecost Mass as 80 candidates attending the LSS are prayed with for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. As the only Catholic Charismatic Church in NJ, the Pentecost Celebration is very special as the Parish was founded in 1875 on Pentecost Sunday some 135 years ago. Contact: G/M McGehrin georgemaryann@hotmail.com

LAY MOVEMENT/ETHNIC

APOSTOLATE PENTECOST MASS

May 23 • 5:30pm, Queen of Peace Parish
10 Franklin Pl., No. Arlington, NJ 07031
followed by Dinner Potluck Buffet at 6:30pm at Queen of Peace High School Gymnasium.

DLC MEETING

June 19, 11am-1pm • St. Mary's

BLD NEWARK ANNIVERSARY

MASS/CELEBRATION

June 19, 2010 1-6pm c/o SM, SPM Service & Liturgy

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITIES

(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles

Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Singles Encounter 24

June 4-6 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY
Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

June 5 • ME, SPE, LSS 33

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Youth Encounter 17

July 9-11 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ

Contact: Ray/Susie Atienza 908-463-0449

asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or yca@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

May 21	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 Intro to Intercession – Singles
May 28	Teaching - Intercessory Formation, Youth, Golden Years Intro to Intercession – Solo Parents
Jun 11	Teaching - Youth
Jun 18	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 Christian Maturity I – Singles
Jun 19*	Christian Maturity II – LSS 31-32
CANCELED	Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit – LSS 33 Apologetics – LSS 29-30, Covenanted

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MAY 14, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,226	60,671
Expenses	(457)	74,598
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,683	(13,927)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

RETREAT/CONSULTATION

WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug. 7 • Time & Venue (To Be Announced)

Inviting all members of Newark Cluster and East Coast BLD Districts

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 20

Bulletin Edition

May 28, 2010

A JOHN 6 LOVE OFFERING

Be Like Christ

1 Peter 1:14-16 “Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, “Be holy because I (am) holy.”

Crossing 9: In this verse, the Lord is calling us to follow his ways and follow him. This year I’ve been picked to be one of the co- shepherds. I would ask why I’ve been chosen, and say, “I don't even know what to do.” I would say this because as far as I know, Shepherds and Co-Shepherds are supposed to be role models. But I sometimes don't take worship seriously. Then I got this bible verse. As I was reading it, it was like God was actually telling me why he chose me and what to do. He was answering my questions. He's telling me I shouldn't be self- centered on what I need but, be centered on what God needs. I shouldn't be saying, “what should I do?” but ask, what God wants me to do for he knows best? He’s telling me to do things well and his way for I know God called me to be like him. To be like God is to be Holy.

Crossing 8: "Because it is written, you shall be holy, for I am holy" Our Lord God created us, humans in his image. Our Father is Holy and he calls us to be like him, to be Holy. But because we are humans, we are not perfect and full of flaws, we sin. In today's society, it is so hard especially for us teenagers. We live a double life, one with friends and in school, the other with the families and in church and community. Every Friday and Sunday gave me a new beginning that being good can be "cool". Hope is not lost, as long you always go back to Jesus to ask for forgiveness and as long as we have parents who won't give up on us no matter how many times we failed them.

Continued on page 2

COUNSELS

TITLE: One Heart One Mind One Spirit
A Perfect Communion

READINGS: Prv 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-9; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

ORDER: Boast in hope of the glory of God and of our afflictions

THEME: We are disciples of Christ when we manifest the unity of the Most Holy Trinity.

REFLECTION:

In our Gospel Reading, we see the relationship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as revealed by Jesus himself. In this relationship, Jesus declares to his disciples that He and the Father are one. Whatever the Father has is also His. The earthly mentality of “this is mine and that is yours” is nonexistent. Whatever belongs to the Father also belongs to the Son. The Holy Spirit – the Spirit of truth – will not speak on his own, but He will speak what he hears, and will declare to the disciples the things that are coming and will guide the disciples to all truths. What a perfect union! The Father, Son and Holy Spirit being of one in substance, character and mind - speaking and acting as one!

Having taken delight in the human race from of old, (Proverbs 8:22-31) God is willing to share this sense of communion with the disciples and by faith (Romans 5:1) with all mankind. But being imperfect human beings - and not God, we struggle with our relationships – our communion with one another. Perfect communion becomes elusive as worldly forces break us apart. The desire for self worth, touchiness and afflictions are a few of the obstacles that could disillusion and run the risk of disunity if we do not share with one another in truth.

Sharing may be in many forms; commonly summarized as sharing ones talent, treasure and time. We read in the Acts of the Apostles how the early Christians did not only devote their life to the spread of the Gospel but also sold their belongings and share the proceedings with the community. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Rom 5:5)

Be Like Christ *(from page 1)*

Crossing 9: In this verse, we are called to be holy. When we are holy, God is placed in the center of our lives. We are to strive to be a holy person, and let our holiness correspond to the holiness of God. The holiness of God is our standards of holiness, which we should try to live up to everyday, no matter how difficult it may be for us, we have to commit ourselves to go out of our way to live as God wants us to be; to be holy. The line "...do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours, in your ignorance" means that we should not live our life in our own standards that we set for ourselves, because it will all lead to sin, considering that we have committed countless sins before by following what we ideally thought was "the right way to go". When we apply God's (vs our own) holiness to our lives, we are set apart from all that is evil and impure, because God is perfect and free from any flaw or impurity. Simply, leading a holy life that would fit God's "holiness standards" for us would help us avoid all forms of sin, impurity, or trap that the devil may have laid out for us.

Crossing 8: The thing that struck me the most was "You shall be holy for I am holy". This means to me that everyone should be mature as a person. They should not give into temptation, and have discipline. Everyday, everywhere and all of the time there will always be temptation that will make you choose the wrong decision. When you make the wrong choices in life, it often has a consequence and may ruin your life. By having morals, following your conscience and having discipline you will be able to follow JESUS and be holy as He is.

Crossing 9: When I read this phrase, I felt that God was telling his people to be more like Him. God chose us to be his children, so we should be obedient to Him by not giving in to "the former lusts," or temptations. Rather than having earthly desires for materialistic things, such as money, cell phones, iPods and more, the Church should express their longing for the Holy One. By doing this, we aim to be holy ourselves in our actions and behaviors.

Crossing 8: This means that we shouldn't give into temptation of the devil. He tempts us with things he knows many will fall for. He uses the media, peer pressure, and many others to get us to fall into temptation. However, the Lord will give us strength to not give into temptation. He is holy and he gives us his grace and mercy to stay away from the devil's horrible offerings.

Born Again

We hear the words of St. Peter in the opening of his beautiful Letter, "*You have been born anew.*" (1 Peter 1:23) What is the significance of these words, and what good do they do us?

Peter, the first Pope and Vicar of Christ, surely must have had in mind the words of the Lord Jesus Himself in His dialogue with Nicodemus: "*Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.*" (John 3:3) It is said that Nicodemus misunderstood the term **anōthen** which is Greek for both "from above" and "again"; this the Lord used as an occasion for further instruction

This mystery that so baffled Nicodemus touches on the very center of our faith. We become children of God when we believe in His name, and this spiritual rebirth comes about not by natural generation; not by human choice or decision but of God Himself. We become members of His people not by a physical birth, but by a birth "of water and the Spirit," i.e., by faith in Christ, and Baptism. To be "born anew" through this sacrament is to share in the divine nature receiving thereby the treasures of the divine life.

"You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed." (1 Peter 1:23) Christian prayer is our speaking to God with the very word of God. Thus, the handing on of the Lord's Prayer during the Baptismal Rite signifies new birth into the divine life, where we learn to invoke the Father by the one Word He always hears. When the Church prays the Lord's Prayer, it is always the people made up of the "new-born" who pray and obtain mercy. (CCC 2769)

St. Peter reminds us of the futility of amassing worldly wealth, of desiring the passing pleasures of the flesh. "*All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the fields...but the word of the Lord remains forever.*" (1 Peter 1:24-25) "*You have been born anew... through the living and abiding word of God.*" (1 Peter 1:23) We were ransomed from futile conduct, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ. The BLD disciple ought also to continuously remind himself, and to bless the Lord, for the immense grace of a New Life arising from our Baptism in the Spirit. No less are we to be thankful that in community, we are served by teachers and mature brethren through instruction and encouragement in our Word sharing circles.

In turn, St. Peter calls us to the consequent duty to "*love one another intensely from a pure heart.*" (1 Peter 1:22).

Nothing Is Impossible

There is no denying that we cannot avoid life's realities. We all have to face trials that appear to be next to impossible. We have to take on challenges that appear to be beyond us. In our work for the Lord, we will be put to the test that our spirituality may even be questioned. Our discipleship with Christ may be scrutinized and we may be persecuted, not by the unbelievers, but by our very own brethren because of envy, pride and self righteousness that can erode a man's loving relationship with his neighbor.

Amidst our sincere desire to do what is good in our Lord's eyes, we may say that our mission is truly impossible. We give up and take on the alternative offered by man, a life that depicts the world and its many attractions.

Whether it is salvaging a dying business, breathing life into a marriage that never was one, walking with a child who is consumed by bitterness, standing helplessly at the side of a dying friend or even building the foundation of God's very own church where its members have not given their full support - we may feel like our Lord's early apostles, trying to feed 15,000 with five loaves. Because of our frustration and disappointment, we proclaim: "It can't be done!" And we are right, IF we are doing it on our own. But we do not have to do it alone, as God is in our midst.

The whole point of Jesus becoming one of us is to talk to us, to walk with us, to minister to us and to make the impossible, possible for us. "I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." Philippians 4:13

The task ahead may be utterly beyond us but if we place ourselves in our Lord's Hands, just as the apostles placed the basket of food in Jesus' hands, our mission will be possible. Broken and weak as we are, the Lord can make us sufficient, just enough for the work He has asked us to do.

Today, let us take a deeper look at the work that God has given us at this time of our lives. Let us not run for cover but accept it, and place our mind, soul and spirit in God's Hands.

We will be amazed at what He can do with us and what we can do for Him, if He has full possession of our hearts and our total being. "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." Mark 10:27

With our Lord, nothing is impossible. Everything is possible!

Counsel *(from page 1)*

Each individual's talent was also galvanized in building the community - some being deacons, presbyter etc. The early disciples recognized that they needed to share in everything and to share everything - in truly be one in order to withstand the circumstances they faced.

In our community today, we too are enjoined to come to the same realization. We are to be one with another as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. As a community therefore, we are not only to share our talents, treasure and time - the blessings and graces that God has endowed us with, as noble as this may be but more importantly may God's love be intertwined amongst us as evident by our life experiences.

To do this, we must first be in personal grace with our Lord Jesus Christ. "I have much to tell you, but you cannot bear it now..." John 16:12. Each of us could take a page from the early disciples such that after our Pauline experiences - and having recognized ourselves for who we are and being filled with the Holy Spirit have the responsibility to share these experiences with others in and outside of community. Recognizing our experiences as God's graces and sharing them in community do not only enrich the life of the members of the community but it enlivens us and glorifies God. "He will glorify me because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you". John 16: 14 & 15. Sharing God's love for us through our personal experiences within the community unites us and increases our personal relationship with one another.

Proverb tells us that the wisdom of God from long ago found delight in the human race (Proverb 8:22-31). This same wisdom through faith (Romans 5:1) guided the early disciples to the realization of their faith and empowered them to boast not only in hope of the glory of God but in their afflictions; knowing that afflictions produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope. They were at peace with God. As disciples of Christ, the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Let us therefore share His love and peace by being sharers and teachers in the community. We can then truly become one with another through the same Christ, our Lord.

Directions:

1. Everybody should share.
2. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to all truth, who is Jesus Christ coming from the Father.
3. Be one as the Father, Son & Holy Spirit are one through our encounter programs and mission work

BLD Community Covenant

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer.
3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

SPECIAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC MEETING

June 19, 11am-1pm • Divine Mercy Parish

BLD NEWARK ANNIVERSARY MASS/CELEBRATION

June 19, 2010 1-6pm c/o SM, SPM Service & Liturgy

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITIES

(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

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For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Fee: \$120 • Open to all singles 20 years old & up

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June 5 • ME, SPE, LSS 33

Solo Parents Encounter 12

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Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Youth Encounter 17

July 9-11 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ

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asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or yca@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

May 28 Teaching - **Intercessory Formation, Youth, Golden Years**
Intro to Intercession – **Solo Parents**

Jun 11 Teaching - **Youth**

Jun 18 Teaching - **Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6**
Christian Maturity I – **Singles**

Jun 19* **CANCELED** Christian Maturity II – **LSS 31-32**
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit – **LSS 33**
Apologetics – **LSS 29-30, Covenanted**

Jun 25 Teaching - **Intercessory Formation, Youth, Solo Parents & Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ St. Mary's

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,234	63,905
Expenses	951	75,549
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,283	(11,644)

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Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

RETREAT/CONSULTATION

WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug. 7 • Time & Venue (To Be Announced)

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BLD GOLF OUTING

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DITYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARI

Volume 16 Issue 21

Bulletin Edition

June 4, 2010

NEWS

POPE: WE ARE ALWAYS CALLED TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE

Reflects on the Feast of the Holy Trinity

VATICAN CITY, MAY 31, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Even though the Easter season is over, the commitment to live a life of grace is not, Benedict XVI said Sunday before praying the midday Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter's Square. Noting that even though the Easter season has concluded, he said "that does not mean that the commitment of Christians must diminish, rather, having entered into the divine life through the sacraments, we are called daily to be open to the action of grace, to progress in the love of God and neighbor."

"This Sunday," he continued, "the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, recapitulates, in a sense, God's revelation in the paschal mysteries: Christ's death and resurrection, his ascension to the right hand of the Father and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"The human mind and language are inadequate for explaining the relationship that exists between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and nevertheless the Fathers of the Church tried to illustrate the mystery of the One and Triune God, living it in their existence with profound faith."

The Holy Father reflected on the sign of the cross, and noted that on the day of baptism the faithful are baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

"We recall the name of God in which we were baptized every time that we make the sign of the cross," he said. "Thus in the sign of the cross and in the name of the living God the proclamation that generates faith and inspires prayer is contained."

After leading the faithful in the Angelus prayer, Benedict XVI spoke of his upcoming trip this week to Cyprus, "to meet and pray with the Catholic and Orthodox faithful there and to consign the Instrumentum Laboris for the upcoming Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Middle East."

"I ask for your prayers for the peace and prosperity of all the people of Cyprus, as well as for the preparations for the Special Assembly," he added.

COUNSELS

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

WORD: Gn. 14:18-20; Ps. 110:2-4; Cor. 11:23-26; Lk. 9:11-17

THEME:

We share with Christ when we receive Him in the Holy Eucharist.

ORDER:

"Do this in remembrance of me"
(1Cor.11:24-26)

REFLECTION:

A man walked into a restaurant in a strange town. The waiter came and asked for his order. Feeling tired and lonely, he replied, "Meat loaf and a kind word." When the waiter came back with the meat loaf, he said, "Where is the kind word?" Making sure the boss was not looking, the waiter whispered, "Don't eat the meat loaf."

Today, we will talk about food. We know that food is necessary to sustain life. Unlike other living creatures, man can choose to eat together making the act of eating a social event. Sadly, our fast pace of life makes it more convenient to eat on the run thus eating, more often than not, is a solitary event. Meals purposely eaten together especially on special occasions gives us the opportunity to communicate, strengthen the bonds of friendship, a time to learn to love each other and even deepen our spiritual intimacy with each other and with God. In his book Jesus of Nazareth, reflecting on the Lord's Prayer, Pope Benedict emphasized the pronoun "our" daily bread and not "my" daily in solidarity with the poor. When two or more are gathered praying the Blessing before meal, we know that God is in their midst. Thus there is something holy and sacred about eating together.

continued on page 4

Promise of the Week

"They all ate and were satisfied" (Luke 9:17).

"Blessed Are you Who Believed" (Luke 1:45)

I used to be a creature of habit. Circumstances in my life had to perfectly fit into place in order for it to be complete. Sometimes I would catch myself lauding over my schedule for the week and getting frustrated when factors did not fall into place to complete every aspect on that "to do" list. I liked having a plan, a precise plan that was carried forward, executed and provided results. Over the years, I learned that one of the most demanding things to accept in life is not every piece is laid out the way that you initially designed it to be. Simply, part of that realization is having an ultimate belief in our Lord God for what He has planned for you and not what you have planned for yourself.

Through my life experiences so far, God has made known to me the direction I should follow. And through those experiences, the hardest part of acknowledging that direction is the unconditional belief in that plan. How do you believe in something so strongly if it is not your plan? How do you accept God's call when you care not to listen? Maybe God knows of these personal struggles and throws certain circumstances in our life to make these decisions easier. For example, would you have believed in God more if he did not heal your sick mother in her death bed? Would you have leaned towards God more at the moment when you lost your best friend to an unfortunate accident? Would you have believed in God's love if he didn't bring your broken family together? God knows we are human; imperfect and hard to convince. But, he makes it easier for us to believe, when we open ourselves to salvation.

What it eventually comes down to, is what you do with those "lemons" that life suddenly gives you. Ironically, this old cliché reminds me of a recent trip I took to the US Military Academy at West Point, NY to entertain an out-of-town friend. The first things you notice are that the mountain ranges along the Hudson that are breath-taking, awe-inspiring to say the least. While driving to the campus, I remember seeing a particular ridge in the distance and I remember being called to it. The funny thing is, mountains always appear to be closer than they really are, which becomes apparent as it seems to take so relatively long to even get to the foothills. As I got a closer look at the mountain I saw that it won't be all that easy to climb. But, as I climbed up, there were obstacles, detours, tiredness, and so on. It's just not as easy as first realized. So it goes too with letting go of selfishness and truly believing in what was spoken by the Lord; that sometimes a journey of belief is, most often, longer and more trying than first imagined. But, if you ultimately believe in His faithfulness and love, He will help you along the way to total fulfillment.

"Without Spot or Blemish"

One life changing and memorable moment for me was when I was in 2nd grade and preparing for my first Holy Communion. My journey through the preparation for this Blessed Sacrament was a long and difficult but I persevered because my goal was to receive. The sacrament of reconciliation was my moment to come clean, "*to be found without Spot or Blemish*" (2 Pt 3:14), in preparation of receiving the Holy Eucharist! I had to prepare my spirit and body to receive our Savior. I wanted to be perfect with a clean heart for our Lord Jesus to dwell in. For at the end of all the studying and preparations, Jesus Christ would now be with me in a real, tangible way.

Growing up the tendency was to feel the pull of the world and pull away from the things that were inherently good. The world pulls you toward the things of the world and very cunningly leads us to believe what it offers us is life. "*Know this first of all, that in the last days scoffers will come to scoff, living according to their own desires.*" (2 Pt 3:3) Somewhere along the way the world tricks you into thinking you've even outgrown God and He's not relevant in your life anymore.

Fortunately God has chosen us, and called us by name. No matter how far we stray, His light in our hearts is never fully extinguished, there's an ember burning deep within our hearts. Our God is a patient and merciful God who does not wish that any of His own should perish. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit that ember is stoked until our hearts are on fire with the Spirit and love of the Lord.

Preparing and planning for life eternal with our Lord, be it our ultimate goal, is still difficult because human nature makes it seem so far away and at times unattainable. The reality for me is that instead of looking at long range I can set my sight on today by being at the ready and prepared to praise the Lord for a new day and partake of the banquet He offers us through Holy Mass. For we can have a small glimpse of His eternal glory when we welcome Him into our hearts through the Holy Eucharist!

Lord's Provision Week Ending May 28, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,896	66,801
Expenses	1,510	77,059
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,386	(10,258)

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

Intercession

"We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings." (Rom. 8:26). In this verse we can take our lead for the great feast of Pentecost which climaxes the Easter celebration on May 23rd. We usually do not picture the persons of the Blessed Trinity interceding for us. We are more comfortable praying TO them. We can easily picture the glorified human Jesus praying for us at the right hand of the Father, as our heavenly priest. But the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit's power of intercession is not the same as our passive begging God for some favor or forgiveness.

The formal and liturgical way of prayer is to the Father through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. When we pray "in the Spirit" we are yielding to the work of the Spirit, and our prayer becomes the Spirit's prayer. The Spirit, always present around and in us, pours his anointing power into our hearts, and our prayer which seems so personal, becomes a prayer of, and in the Spirit. Our daily prayer and contemplation should be a flow over from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer becomes one with the intercession of the Holy Spirit. If we "yield" properly to the work of the Spirit, the words of Jesus become a reality. *"If you live in me and my words live in you, ask what you will, and it will be done for you."* (John 15:7)

There is big "if" in that verse. Abiding in Jesus means we have become so identified with him, that it would be impossible for us to ask for something that was not already the will of God. We intercede not to change the mind of God, but to become identified with his will. Our intercession then becomes infallible. Maybe and probably we are not at that point in our walk with the Lord. But should it not be our goal?

As members of the BLD community we are always part of the intercessory ministry. When we pray and intercede we should *"have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Ph. 4:6) I sense that sometimes we pray in a panic, worrying that perhaps we are not praying "hard" enough, and that God will not answer us until we have done something extraordinary, or we think to get somebody "holier" than we are to pray for our intentions, hoping that their prayer might be more effective. The focus here is on ourselves instead of on the "intercession" of the Holy Spirit. Trust your prayer. God wants to bless us more than we could possibly realize.

Ministry Announcements

ISAIAH 58

Sagip Ka Eskuela Program (Save a School Child)

Bring your old or unused School Supplies
St. Mary's Church (Fellowship Area)
Contacts: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213

Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm**

After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation

in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month.

Volunteers are needed.

June 12 □ John 6 Ministry

Contacts: Boyet/Zita Cruz

john6@bldnewark.com

Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

MISSION

SOUP KITCHEN

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark

Every 4th Sat. of the month. **June 26** □ **ME # 29**

Cezar/Vicky Rasalan 732-742-5208

crasalan@optonline.net □ Mel/Remy Hernandez

Stewardship: It's a way of life!

Special Announcements

DLC MEETING

June 19, 11am-1pm □ Divine Mercy Parish

BLD NEWARK ANNIVERSARY MASS/CELEBRATION

June 19, 2010 1-6pm c/o SM, SPM Service & Liturgy

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITIES (AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 □ Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/SM

Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/SM

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas

Counsels from page 1

Now, there is a life with small letter "I", our ordinary human life to be sustained with ordinary physical food and a Life with big letter "L", our Spiritual Life which requires Spiritual Food, the Living Bread from Heaven, the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today is a special event as we celebrate as a community of faith the Solemnity of Corpus Christi with joy and thanksgiving (in Greek, Eucharisto) for the gift of the Eucharist. It is foreshadowed in the first reading where Melchisedek, the King-Priest of Salem which means peace prefigures Christ when he offers bread and wine as blessing or thanksgiving to God and a blessing to Abraham, our father in faith.

Today's feast is tied to Holy Thursday. St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians gives an account of the institution of the Eucharist and the memorial of Christ's broken Body and shed Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. The same words are used in every mass we attend.

In today's Gospel, the multiplication of the loaves to feed thousands of men is a miracle not only to alleviate their physical hunger but at the same time an announcement for an even more wondrous meal, the Eucharist for their spiritual hunger.

The five thousand men were arranged in an orderly fashion, in groups of 50's. Why? Because there will be a banquet, a celebration, a foretaste of the heavenly feast.

The bread would have been enough. Why the fish? Jesus wanted to take care of their health too. Ask any cardiologist. Heard of Omega 3?

The disciples distributed the food making them the first Eucharistic ministers. At the last supper Jesus made them priests when He said: "Do this in memory of me."

There were twelve leftover baskets. What do they signify? That God gives us his Blessings in superabundance to those who follow His Will and that the Eucharist should be brought to those who could not attend the sick and the homebound.

Furthermore, this feeding of the five thousand is not a one-shot deal. It is repeated everyday from generation to generation until the end of time as we, the members of the Body of Christ feast on the Eucharist, the very Flesh and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In contrast to the waiter who advised not to eat the meat loaf, let our kind word be to encourage each other to attend MASS and together receive the HOLY EUCHARIST more often.

St. Augustine said that whoever receives the Holy Eucharist is converted or transformed into Christ. Let us be Christ to others as we continue to do our part in alleviating world hunger especially the poor and destitute. Let us be more self-giving persons reaching out toward our companions so that each Holy Eucharist will be time of fellowship with one another, a feast of love. Amen.

Community Calendar

Singles Encounter No. 24

June 4-6 □ Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY

Fee: \$120 □ Open to all singles 20 years old & up

Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden

June 5 □ ME, SPE, LSS 33

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 □ CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049

Youth Encounter 17

July 9-11 □ CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Contact: Ray/Susie Atienza 908-463-0449
asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or
ycs@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 □ Malvern Retreat House, Malvern PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina
cristeff5@gmail.com, Joe/Bambi Pascoguin
bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

Teaching Calendar

June 11 □ Teaching - Youth

June 18 □ Teaching- Service Formation,
Mark 10 & John 6

June 19* □ Christian Maturity II – LSS 31-32
cancelled Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit– LSS 33
Excellence in Worship-Community

June 25 □ Teaching – Intercessory Formation,
Youth, Solo Parents & Golden Years

Save The Date

RETREAT/CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO
Aug. 7-8 □ Time & Venue (To Be Announce)

Inviting all members of Newark Cluster and East Coast Districts

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 □ Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 □ VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Support and intensify your programs on poverty alleviation by sharing your time, talent and treasure.
2. Receive Holy Communion frequently and live with the presence of Jesus in your life.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 22

Bulletin Edition

June 11, 2010

God's Amazing Grace

Amazing! God's hand was so evident in the success of the just-concluded SE#24. In Him we trust and we are truly assured that God will never forsake the works of His hands. With a grateful heart, we were so blessed last weekend to have such a hardworking sponsoring class of SE #23, their Class Shepherds, Rey and Tess Salmo, who were supported by an equally determined batch of auxies, who put in so many hours of work to accomplish the task entrusted to them. To everybody's delight, the performance of the SE 23's *Harana* was definitely worth lots of applause.

To everyone in the BLD community who offered support through their intercessory prayers, thank you. To our DCS, Singles Praise Ministry, facilitators, class shepherds, all the intercessors and prayer warriors, the power in the vigil room echoed in triumph in such great holiness.

Fr. Paul Lehman, Fr. Michael Fougee, and the rest of the pastoral team surely planted the seeds of God's love and holiness upon the candidates.

The honor is upon the Lord for giving us a very vibrant group of 24 candidates. They are: Dorothy Alburo, Monica Avisado, Grace de Luna, Roxanne Entrada, Lisa De Gorostiza, Anna Gonzalvo, Eileen Inciong, Melissa Mendiola, Anais Morel, Marissa Navarro, Kirsten Joy Pacia, Steven Adel, Patrick Birmingham, Vergel Clavel, Brian Gosico, Jimmy Huynh, Andrew Manansala, Philip Mark Militar, Jes Herald Pacia, Aiko Raagas, Michael Rivera, Derek Scymanski, Eric Tuy, Leo Oliver Yap. Let us all give them a warm welcome!

We pray that together, we, as community of God's disciples, shall strive to shepherd these 25 dynamic, young souls that they may be added to the throng of new laborers in God's vineyard.

"O Lord, You are our father; we are the clay and You the potter; we are all the work of Your hands."
(Isaiah 64:7)

COUNSELS

A Humble Servant

WORD: 2 Sm 12:7-10; 13, Ps 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11; Gal 2:16, 19-21; Lk 7:36-8:3 or 7:36-50

THEME: We share life with Christ when we acknowledge our sinful nature.

ORDER: **"Acknowledge your sin."** (Psalm 32:5)

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's readings illustrate God's willingness to forgive and His strong desire to repair relationships. We lay part in restoring that relationship by acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting the weaknesses of judgment.

Through the 1st Reading, we learn that if we sincerely repent of our sins, God can and will forgive them all, just like the sins of David. God always seeks to call us back to faithfulness and fidelity to Him. Such is the grace of God, for without it, we can never repent and reconcile with Him when we sin.

In the 2nd Reading, Paul's letter to the Galatians began with these words: **"We know that a person is justified, not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus."** (Galatians 2:16) He was referring to forgiveness that can never be achieved through good works alone. What God desires most is not outward sacrifices, but a humble spirit. We also know that Paul was not saying that the law itself was bad, because in Romans 7:12, he wrote **"the law itself is holy and right and good"**. Simply, St. Paul was just reminding us of three things about the law: (1) It guards us from sin; (2) It convicts us of sin, leaving us the opportunity to ask for God's forgiveness; and (3) It drives us to trust in the sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel story, St. Luke relates an interaction between Jesus, Simon the Pharisee, who thought he was holy and righteous, and the *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin; you shall not die." (2 Samuel 12:13)

The Sermon on the Mount

In St. Matthew's gospel, the Sermon on the Mount begins with this simple introduction: ***"When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, His disciples came to Him."***

The list of lessons that Jesus taught them that day is quite long:

THE BEATITUDES Mt 5:3-12

- ✓ You are the salt of the earth. Mt 5:13
- ✓ Leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother. Mt 5:24
- ✓ When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. Mt 5:39
- ✓ Love your enemies. Mt 5:44
- ✓ Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. Mt 5:48
- ✓ When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. Mt 6:6

THE LORD'S PRAYER Mt 6:9-15

- ✓ For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Mt 6:21
- ✓ No one can serve two masters. Mt 6:24
- ✓ Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Mt 6:25
- ✓ Seek first the kingdom (of God) and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Mt 6:33
- ✓ Stop judging, that you may not be judged. Mt 7:1
- ✓ Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Mt 7:7

THE GOLDEN RULE Mt 7:12

- ✓ Enter through the narrow gate. Mt 7:13
- ✓ By their fruits you will know them. Mt 7:16
- ✓ Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. Mt 7:24-25

"When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority." Mt 7: 28-29

It is no wonder the people were amazed. Blessed are the poor? Love your enemy? In one afternoon Jesus had revealed the essence of the Good News. In one sermon He opened His heart to those eager listeners in Galilee and turned their world upside down. Centuries have passed since Christ gathered the people together on that hillside and taught them the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. But this is more than a history lesson or a remembrance from the dusty past. CHRIST'S WORD IS ALIVE. He still speaks to His people with the same wisdom and authority that amazed His earliest disciples. This week, spend a sunny afternoon at the feet of Jesus...re-read the Sermon on the Mount and let His message turn your world upside down.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

"They shall look on Him whom they have pierced."

(John 19:37)

She was Jesus' "Beloved Disciple of the Sacred Heart". St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was credited for the widespread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the help of writings by two Jesuits, Fr. Claude de la Columbiere and John Eudes who fully supported her claims of Jesus' revelations to her.

Margaret was born at L'Hauteur, France on July 22, 1647 to pious parents, Claude Alacoque and Philiberte Lamyn. Margaret is a child of deep spiritual devotion. She would rather spend her time sitting in prayer to the Blessed Sacrament. At her first communion at age nine, a self-imposed corporal mortification lead to paralysis lasting 4 years. In agony and pain, she vowed to the Blessed Virgin to consecrate herself to religious life and was immediately healed. In her teens, her mother tried to marry her off due to change in family fortune. Out of filial affection and obedience to her mother, Margaret broke her childhood vow of consecration. She felt she could serve God just as well at home by penance and charity. The vision of the Scourged Christ reproaching her for her infidelity made her change her mind.

At age 24, she entered the Visitation Order at Paray-le-Monial, France in 1671 and took the name of Margaret Mary Alacoque. In her cloistered life, she suffered immeasurably, but often healed miraculously. During her suffering the Lord Jesus appeared to her confiding to her to establish the devotion to His Sacred Heart. Despite criticism and adverse reactions to her visionary claims by her own Mother Superior and others, Margaret Mary continued her obedience, humility and charity work.

In 1675, Our Lord revealed 12 promises to her that whoever receive communion on First Fridays for nine consecutive months to His Sacred Heart will, among others, have His Sacred Heart their refuge in their last hour. Jesus appointed the Friday after the octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi as the feast of the Sacred Heart. Devotees are urged to pray in every circumstance of life to preserve peace of heart, renouncing their own will to the will of the divine heart.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is adoration of the "... pierced heart of the Crucified", in which God's own heart is opened up. The Sacred Heart is a discourse of God's love revealed to us. ***"In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins."*** (1 John 4:10)

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, died on October 17, 1690. At the canonical opening of her tomb in July 1830, her body remained uncorrupted and two instant cures took place. For the many favors attributed to her from diabetics, polio sufferers, orphans and devotees of the Sacred Heart, she was canonized by Pope Benedict XV on May 13, 1920.

Shepherding is Loving Christ

After eating breakfast, Jesus asked Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Peter affirmed his love for Jesus. He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus asked this question to Peter three times. We know that Peter denied the Lord three times and it was three times that Jesus gave him a chance to affirm his love. Jesus gave Peter a chance to wipe out the memory of the threefold denial by a threefold declaration of love. What has love for Jesus brought Peter? First it brought him a task. After Peter affirmed his love for Jesus, He said to him, "Feed my sheep." This means that the greatest proof of his love for Jesus is to love others.

Second, love for Jesus brought Peter a cross. The day came when Peter died for his Lord. Peter also was nailed to a cross but asked to be nailed to it head downward for he felt unworthy to die in the same way as Jesus. Thus Peter's affirmation of his love for Jesus brought him a task and a cross. To love the Lord always involves responsibility and sacrifice.

Our Lord asks us the same question He asked Peter. "Do you love me more than these?" Like Peter, can we also say to Him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you?" While it may be easy for us to affirm our love for Jesus let us not lose sight of what loving Him entails. Love for Him always involves responsibility and sacrifice. Many of us fail in this aspect. One of the reasons perhaps is because of our romantic notion of love. Yet, loving Jesus is not like lying down on the bed of roses. A story was told about St. Theresa of Avila complaining to the LORD because of the trials and difficulties she was experiencing. The Lord replied, "That's how I treat my friends." St. Theresa said, "That's why you have few friends." To love Jesus means to be prepared to do His task and take up His cross.

When Peter told Jesus that he loved Him, Jesus commissioned him to feed His sheep. To say that we love the Lord is to take our task of shepherding. We don't need to be theologians to do this task. We don't need to go to the ends of the earth to proclaim God's love. The task of shepherding means we guide those entrusted to our care from going astray. It means nourishing others with the Word of God, bringing them closer to Christ, and helping them grow spiritually. The task of shepherding means searching out those who are lost and leading them back to Christ. The task of shepherding means being with someone who needs a shoulder to cry on, giving encouragement to those who are disheartened, showing compassion to those who are suffering, being patient with those struggling to change to become better persons. **Loving the Lord always involves a task.**

Jesus is now asking us, "***Do you love me more than these?***" When we say we love Him, it means we are ready to love even though our love is not reciprocated. We will continue to persevere even if our efforts seem to bear no fruits. We won't give up even though our intentions are misunderstood. We will be generous even if our gifts are not accepted. We will continue to serve even if we are persecuted, because to love the Lord always involves a sacrifice.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

woman who was not even named. This story of Simon and the sinful woman is a lesson in contrast. The opposing attitudes of Simon and this woman clearly show that we can either accept or reject the mercy of God. It prevented him from acknowledging his need for the grace of God. Jesus neither judged, nor rebuked the woman, as Simon had earlier expected, because she was a sinner. Instead, Jesus welcomed her, and said to her, "***Your sins are forgiven.***" (Luke 7:48)

Where does humility come in? God extends His forgiveness to anyone who admits the need for it, and gives grace and salvation to anyone who asks for it. Tonight, we want to consider the mark of humility. In Matthew 23:12, it says, "***For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.***" Jesus reminds us that the way up is down. To be exalted, men must humble themselves. He illustrated this principle throughout His life.

Why is humility an important part in our life? First and foremost, **humility is the proper attitude before God.** Obedience to Him begins with humility. Humility towards God is much like the fear of God. As we see God in His majesty, awesomeness and holiness, we are humbled before Him.

Next, **humility clarifies our dependence on God.** When our life falls apart, we should turn to God for directions and help. **Humility also keeps us from depending on our own strength.** In Joshua 7:6, it says, "***Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed down facing the Ark of the Lord until evening.***" When Joshua and his army went to war, he did not consult God, but instead, relied on the strength of his army to defeat a small city. Only after they were defeated did they turn to God and ask what happened.

Humility is essential for service to others. People today are just as eager to raise their social status, whether by being with the right people, dressing for success, or driving the right car. Surely, Simon, the Pharisee, did not impress God. Rather than aiming for prestige, let us instead look to serving God in humility. There are instances in outside organizations where status clashes with service. Jesus never suggested that leadership in His church entails privilege.

Lastly, **humility increases our appreciation for God.** A humble heart sees God's goodness with clarity. We are no longer blinded by our pride, and thus, trust God's mercy wholeheartedly. We also become honest in our prayers, allowing us to express our true feelings to Him, remembering that He is our all-knowing and all-powerful God, and that His love for us is everlasting!

What conclusion should we reach from tonight's readings and Gospel story? None of us can claim any entitlements when we come before God. Recognizing our nothingness before God precedes humility. Our challenge is to believe in and follow Jesus, who represents true forgiveness and humility. We can humble ourselves and truly attain forgiveness, if we genuinely repent for our sins, receive His mercy, and release all our guilt, shame and self-pity.

Continued on page 4

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 **KOMAPET**

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)
Cars for Economic and skills development aide
Donate your car & get a tax deductible receipt (free towing).
Proceeds will be use for breaking the yoke of poverty:
Sagip ka Eskuela & Scholarship Program
YTD Donation: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

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Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **June 26 • ME# 29**
Ceazar/Vicky Rasalan 732.742.5208
crasalan@optonline.net • Mel/Remy Hernandez

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC MEETING

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(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles

Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

COUNSEL (from page 3)

DIRECTIONS

- ✓ Go to confession often.
- ✓ Be quick to ask for forgiveness. Be ready to forgive.
- ✓ Be vulnerable to each other, and be open to be ministered to.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Youth Encounter 17

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Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,

Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net

Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jun 11	Teaching - Youth
Jun 18	Teaching - Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6 Christian Maturity I – Singles
Jun 19*	Christian Maturity II – LSS 31-32
CANCELED	Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit – LSS 33 Apologetics – LSS 29-30, Covenanted
Jun 25	Teaching - Youth, Solo Parents & Golden Years

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JUNE 4, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,529	70,330
Expenses	5,389	82,449
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,860)	(12,119)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug 7-8 • Time (to be announced)

Newark's Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.
Inviting DCS, IDCS and DLC of Newark Cluster and East Coast BLD Districts

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 23

Bulletin Edition

June 18, 2010

Master, Are You Going To Wash My Feet?

“Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with Me” John 13:8. On June 5, 2010, 14 participants from SPE 11 and 9, LSS 33, and ME 17 attended the Washing of the Feet/Agony in the Garden Retreat at Divine Mercy Parish. We were blessed to have Msgr. Schethlick as the Retreat master.

The Retreat was a collaboration of the Teaching, Intercessory, Service and Witness Development Program ministries with support from the Praise ministry. The main objective of the Retreat is to immerse the disciples in the Lord’s call to servanthood and intercession as exemplified in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Retreat is intended for encountered BLD members from solo parents, married couples and single ministries.

“A sacrificing love is our redemption and loving service is salvation” according to Msgr. Schetlick. The Retreat ended with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and participants shared their thoughts and reflections during the Mass. The participants were blissful and appreciated the impact of the Retreat in their lives, recognizing the meaning of their sufferings and services rendered to others with Jesus Christ as their model of true humility and servanthood.

“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than the master nor any messenger greater the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.” (John 13:15–17)

The participants were Olga Marie Abroquena, Joe Appel, Susan Banzuela, Rameses Bautista, Magdalena Blankas, Narma Calara, Aurora DeCastro, Jane & Gus Enciso, Tomasita Fandino, Remelee Leano, Vicente Limbo, Clair Mariano and Gladys Vicari.

COUNSELS

Carrying Our Cross

WORD: Zec 12:10-11; 13: 1, Ps 63: 2-6; 8-9, Gal 3: 26-29, Lk 9:18-24

THEME: We share life with Christ when we deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Him.

ORDER: If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

REFLECTION:

In the gospel for this Sunday, Luke recounts one occasion when Jesus *“was praying in solitude.”* Luke wanted to indicate that something very important theologically was about to occur.

When Jesus asked his disciples, *“Who do the crowds say that I am?”*, Peter, spokesperson for the disciples, answered Jesus’ question: *“The Christ of God”*. “Christ” here means “anointed” and is a name indicating honor and office. Peter’s answer was not only a profession of his faith, dependent on what he had seen Jesus do and what he himself had done in Jesus’ name. Peter’s answer focused on Jesus’ power to save needy people from the forces of evil. However, in the very next verse, Jesus commands them to silence (v.21) because Jesus, as Christ of God, must be viewed from a new perspective, that of the **cross**. In verse 22, Jesus then prophesied his passion and death in order to help his disciples believe in him. He also wanted to show them that he was freely accepting the sufferings he would undergo. Luke is alerting his readers that opposition to Jesus will mount and eventually lead to Jesus’ death on the cross. But behind the deepening opposition to Jesus stands God’s plan and the vindication of Jesus in the resurrection.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

(Luke 9:24)

No Worries

“Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

(Matthew 6:34)

What do people worry about the most? It's exactly what Jesus said in the above passage that we should worry about the least, the future or what tomorrow may bring. Oftentimes not only are we worried about the concerns of today, but we're locked up with fear and worry about what's going to happen "tomorrow".

Matthew 6:25-34 tells us to surrender everything to God and He will take care of us. But we always want to be in the driver's seat when it comes to our future. No one has a perfect life because problems are constantly present in everybody's life. We can find true peace in our hearts only when we really try to understand and follow what Jesus said. We all have to condition ourselves to always seek the Lord first and entrust all our worries and decisions to Him. We all need to be able to go to sleep soundly in our boats no matter how strong the wind or how rough the sea is, trusting that God has everything under control. We need to be confident that Jesus will quiet the storm just as He did when the disciples woke Him up.

St. Paul said it best in his letter to the Philippians; ***“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.”*** (Philippians 4:6-7; 11-13)

The message is to trust in God and learn to be satisfied wherever we are, whether we are full or hungry, in plenty or in want, in good times or in bad. Only in true acceptance of our situation, in trusting that God will provide us what we need today will we find peace. Only through constant practice of our faith through worship and prayer can we experience the presence of the Lord who will fill us with peace and joy, with hope and confidence for the future that will take away our worries even in the midst of difficult trials and tribulations.

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

Love Is Blind

Without qualification, God's word tells us, straight, that love is the greatest of all the cardinal virtues (1 Cor 13:13). St Paul said in 1 Cor 13:1-2, ***“If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.”***

Scripture never says that God is justice or beauty or righteousness. But 1 Jn 4:8 says, ***“God is love”***. No word is more misunderstood in our society than the word love. The most common misunderstanding of love is to confuse it with a feeling. There is a big difference between the two. Feelings come to us passively; love comes from us actively, by our free choice. We are not responsible for our feelings – we can't help how we feel, but we are responsible for our love or lack of it, eternally responsible, for love comes from inside of us; feelings come from outside of us.

Our Lord emphasizes this important point further on what loving is all about – ***“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust”***, (Mt 5:44-45). Here, our Lord is telling us love is “blind” or unconditional. Unlike natural feelings, love is not conditioned on our likes and dislikes of one's temperament and personality. Some of our neighbors can be our enemies who have real faults we simply cannot like. But we can love them because love is above the natural; love is supernatural. Love means seeing them as souls for whom our Lord was crucified too. Love means wishing them well, praying sincerely that they will overcome their surly disposition and distasteful habits. Love means striving to overlook their bad qualities and trying to discover their good ones.

Lord, forgive me for striving to avoid those I don't like, for not making any effort to find their good qualities, for letting my mind go over their faults and the things they did to hurt me until my feelings are on fire with hate. Make me stop this selfishness; let me know that everyone has faults including myself; let me know that love does not go looking for faults, that love looks for the good, that love is patient, is kind, endures all things. Let me love them as you love me.

What's Your Treasure

"Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Matthew 6:19-21)

I remember when our children were still very young, they always found things I had hidden, and finding them seemed to bring them special joy. Children find treasures because they are curious. I have a feeling I have missed some great treasures because my eyes were distracted by mind-numbing routine and complacency. Who knows what God has planted for me to find today? If I slow down a bit, God may surprise me and a childhood feeling of adventure may return.

The riches of heaven are the things we should be desirous of – not the things of the world. The only treasures we know are the sunken variety. We have all seen the movies where pirates open a trunk filled with diamonds and rubies and we know there are tons of such stuff buried at sea. It shows us what God thinks of them; they are down at the bottom! God's concept of treasure is a soul that deeply loves Him and deeply loves his neighbor. That invisible reality is far more valuable than the passing trinkets of this world.

Only in Jesus will I find what is best and most precious for me. God is far greater and better than all things created. He is perfectly charming and full of consolation. In Him, I find perfect beauty and all satisfying love. No matter what I like or love, unless it is God Himself, it can never give me the perfect happiness, which my soul desires. We make choices in our life. Sometimes these choices seem unhappy or unfair, but in the end we control our own destiny because we can decide how people and events affect us. Many who reached earthly success become desperate. Why? Because they came to realize that nothing on earth could give them the happiness, which they wanted. They should have turned at last to God, but they had forgotten Him in their quest for earthly joy.

Dear Lord, I cannot live for joy that is doomed to fade away. Though I hope for a reasonable joy on earth, I shall never turn my back on You by sin. Earth's good things only reflect Your goodness and Your power. I will never abandon the glorious reality for the sake of its reflection. When I am tempted to sin for some earthly attractions, give me the grace to remember Your goodness, greatness and love. You are my treasure. Amen.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

In verse 23, Jesus then extends his invitation to all to follow him. ***"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*** (Lk 9:23) In contrast to Luke's previous narration of Jesus simply calling his disciples to follow him (in Lk 5:1-11 and 5:27-32), the cross is now embossed in the center of Jesus' invitation. In addition, Jesus is not asking us to carry our cross only when we feel like it. He asks us to carry our cross "daily." Carrying the cross daily does not mean martyrdom but daily steadfast loyalty to the Master and to his way of life. St. Jerome says: "Not only in time of persecution or when we have the chance of martyrdom, but in all circumstances, in everything we do and think, in everything we say, let us deny what we used to be and let us confess what we now are, reborn as we have been in Christ." The cross that Jesus refers to is not the headaches and other unexpected changes of life, but Jesus' commitment to and his disciples' participation in God's kingdom in word and deed. This profound commitment to Jesus is the basis for losing one's life to help bring about God's kingdom. According to St. John Mary Vianney: "A person who loves pleasure, who seeks comfort, who flies from anything that might spell suffering, who is over-anxious, who complains, who blames and who becomes impatient at the least little thing which does not go his way - - - a person like that is a Christian only in name; he is only a dishonor to his religion." Does it sound like most of us? How many of us have complained to the Lord about our cross? How many of us have wished we had a more comfortable life? How many of us have refused to serve the Lord because the task or assignment is too hard, or takes too much of our time? How many of us carry our cross only when it is convenient?

You and I are called to follow Jesus. We are Christians because we are followers of "The Christ of God." As he called his disciples over 2,000 years ago, He now calls us to a deeper following. Our directions, not only for the coming week, but for the rest of our lives and our community's life, are to "get out of our comfort zones and cast our nets in deeper waters." As a disciple and follower of Jesus, are you willing to go into a deeper relationship with him by cheerfully carrying your cross daily?

DIRECTIONS

Get out of your comfort zone and cast your net into deeper waters.

Make the Covenant News part of your Covenant Life

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 **KOMAPET**

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talino)
Cars for Economic and skills development aide
Donate your car & get a tax deductible receipt (free towing).
Proceeds will be use for breaking the yoke of poverty:
Sagip ka Eskuela & Scholarship Program
YTD Donation: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.
We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION **Soup Kitchen**

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **June 26 • ME# 29**
Ceazar/Vicky Rasalan 732.742.5208
crasalan@optonline.net • Mel/Remy Hernandez

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLC MEETING

June 19, 11am-1pm • Divine Mercy Parish

BLD NEWARK ANNIVERSARY MASS/CELEBRATION

June 19, 2010 1-6pm c/o SM, SPM Service & Liturgy

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITIES

(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference

July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ

Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles

Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles

Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Solo Parents Encounter 12

June 25-27 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
Ed & Nanie de los Reyes 718-948-2049 edvdlr@hotmail.com

Youth Encounter 17

July 9-11 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ

Contact: Ray/Susie Atienza 908-463-0449

asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or yca@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

Jun 18 Teaching - **Service Formation, Mark 10, John 6**

Christian Maturity I – **Singles**

Jun 19* **CANCELED** Christian Maturity II – **LSS 31-32**
Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit – **LSS 33**
Apologetics – **LSS 29-30, Covenanted**

Jun 25 Teaching - **Youth, Solo Parents & Golden Years**

Note: On Fri: after worship, *Sat: 1-6pm @ Divine Mercy

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JUNE 4, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,085	74,415
Expenses	5,856	88,305
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,771)	(13,890)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

MARK 10 SUMMER PICNIC

June 26 • Sesame Place, Langhorne, PA

Visit www.bldnewark.net for details.

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug 7-8 • Time (to be announced)

Newark's Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.

Inviting **DCS, IDCS and DLC** of Newark Cluster and East Coast BLD Districts

YOUTH INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2010

Aug. 13-15 • St. Killian Parish, Farmingdale, NY

Visit www.bldnewark.net for details.

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A. www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 24

Bulletin Edition

June 25, 2010

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!

A grand party was held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 from 1–6 p.m. at the Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium in celebration of Global BLD's 25th Anniversary. The affair was sponsored by the Singles and Solo Parents ministries. It began with Praise & Worship led by Portia de Jesus (SPE) and Eric Escobinas (SM), and culminated with a joyous Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by Frs. Paul Lehman, Dennis Kaelin, and Robert Lamirez, with Deacon Rudy Santos as Deacon of the Word.

We thank our Lord, the source of all life and goodness, in pouring out His grace upon our community's celebration. Indeed His blessings overflowed through the kindness and generosity of the community in the love offering and donations of food, supplies, décor, provisions and themselves that we have received from volunteers. Impressive too is the work and time given by volunteers in the preparations, setting up, decorations and clean up. Thank you to all unnamed volunteers, who behind the scene, have poured out their support for the success of this event.

To the delight of everyone, there were marvelous performances by Mark 10, John 6, Youth, Singles-SE23, Solo parents, and even the unbelievable Golden Years. What about the *surprise numbers* from the DCS, who were at some point unstoppable? Who could not say that Newark BLD's "got talent"!

The Lord has blessed BLD with 25 fruitful years of service to His grace and majesty. May our 'open hearts' that have sustained our community for the last 25 years continue to be even more open to the Spirit for the next 25, 50, 100 and more years!

May all the glory, honor and praise be to the Lord!
What an awesome God we serve indeed!

Make Covenant News
A Part of Your Covenant Life
www.bldnewark.com

COUNSELS

A CALL TO MISSION

WORD: 1Kgs 19:16, 19-21; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;
Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62

ORDER: "Serve one another through love"
(Gal 5:13b)

THEME: We share life with Christ when we serve one another through love.

REFLECTION:

In today's Gospel, Jesus "*resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem*" (Lk 9:51). This determination was decisive, fateful and marked the beginning of the end. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem is a journey towards his death, a difficult destiny and he knew it. Lk 13:33b says that "*it is impossible that a prophet should die outside of Jerusalem.*" Jerusalem therefore is the city of Jesus' destiny and the goal of his journey. Only when he reaches this holy city will his work of salvation be accomplished. And it is from here "*that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem*" (Lk 24:47). Jesus will not only die in Jerusalem; he will also be raised from the dead thus completing his exodus to God and the Christian mission will travel to the ends of the earth. As he was preparing his disciples to carry out his work, he also passes on to us the responsibility to make God's Kingdom a living reality in our world.

The radicalism of Jesus' call to follow him emphasizes that the journey he took is the way for us to take. It indicates indirectly that following Jesus is a matter of traveling with him toward death and resurrection. His response to the would-be disciples is not likely to be meant literally, but rather indicates how completely we must put everything else behind us and put him first when we become his followers.

continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

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

THE SERVANT'S VOCATION

“Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth; from my mother’s womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory.” (Isaiah 49:1-3)

The term vocation comes from the Latin word “vocare” meaning to call. While a priestly vocation is a call from God to the consecrated, religious life, everybody is called by God to know, love and serve Him in different capacities. Our careers or professions can be looked at as a horizontal calling since its purpose usually is in earning a livelihood and in contributing some ways to the good of society but a vocation is a vertical calling since its purpose is about doing God’s will for the salvation of our souls and others. We may pray to God to show us which career path we should take and where He can better use us, but in a case of a baptized doctor who was asked to do an abortion, his Christian vocation has to win over his job security or profession. Similarly, a priest or a BLD community member who has had success in his particular ministry when asked by his bishop or his pastoral head to serve in a different area must follow their priestly vocation to obey his bishop and their covenant, rather than the “success” in that particular ministry.

In the one life that God gave us, fulfilling the will of God is the one that will lead us to eternal happiness. How do we know that we have found our vocation? According to Fr. Anthony of Vocation.com, there are two signs to help us, first is that, we will feel “at home” there, and the second, we will feel that the task is too great for us to accomplish. Heeding and responding to God’s call, will bring us heavenly peace that the world cannot give but at the same time it will cost us. We will have to die to ourselves; it will need our time, talent and treasure. We will be stretched and pulled every which way because God wants us to be no less than a saint. That is what we were meant to be. That is our calling. *“Take up your cross and follow me.”* (Mark 8:34)

“For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, That Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49: 5-6)

The term “servant” often has a negative connotation, and it implies that there is a master. Our Lord Jesus who came to serve is the Master. He is the Servant King, the Father’s obedient Son. To be given the title of “Servant of God” in the

THE GOLDEN RULE

Our Lord sets forth for all to hear the true path to gold. *“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”* (Mt 7:12). This rule is truly “golden” in that, if applied, it is worth far more than any earthly riches, and becomes the means by which the individual Christian attains immeasurable wealth that never fades. It has of course, many competitors for its title: “Golden Rule”. Some believe that the “Golden Rule” is, “He who has the gold makes the rules” – this is the golden rule of power. Some believe the “Golden rule” is, “Do unto others before they do unto you” – the golden rule of position. But the Lord sets before us that the course to true riches is to treat others exactly as you wished to be treated.

Do you appreciate kind words and a smile? Then give them. Do you appreciate other’s patience when you have failed or made a mistake? Then exercise the same towards others. Do you appreciate generosity in your time of need? Then give to those in need. Do you appreciate respect and a listening ear? Then give respect and listen carefully to others’ concerns. In her book, *What I Know For Sure*, Oprah Winfrey, who lived by this principle of “Do unto others” said, “This rule works every time, whether or not you are aware of it. It occurs in little things, big things and the biggest things.....that the happiness you feel is in direct proportion to the love you are able to give.”

Jesus made it clear that the Golden Rule is indeed distilled wisdom that when practiced yields rich dividends. For us to be spiritually rich, we must apply the Golden Rule in two ways. First, we must apply it to our enemies. If we treat those who love us and do good to us with love and goodness what profit is there in this? Our Lord says even sinners love those who love them. Instead, we are to love and do good to our enemies. In this way the purity of our love is shown, no mixed motives and no giving in order to get. Secondly, in applying the Golden Rule, we must lend to those from whom we expect nothing in return. We must use the earthly riches God has given us in this life to secure heavenly riches. *“Lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great.”* (Lk 6:35)

May He who not only gave us the Golden Rule but who gave us His very self without seeking a return, enable us to treat others as we would wish to be treated.

Servant’s Vocation (cont. from col.1)

canonization process means that the deceased person has lived a holy & pious life. Also, one of the official titles of our pope is “Servant of the Servants of God” (*Servus Servorum Dei*). So there is no shame in opening our hearts to the call of the Master to be “fishers of men”, and to establish His kingdom here on Earth. To be a light to the nations is therefore a servant’s vocation – our vocation.

Apologetics:

WHEN TO GENUFLECT AND WHEN TO BOW?

Genuflection as a general rule is reserved for the most solemn reverence. Particularly appropriate in the presence of God Himself! The Real Presence of the Lord God Himself comes among us under the appearance of bread and wine as St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians reminds us. When you move from your seat to go up for Communion, remember who is waiting for you at the altar, genuflect to adore your Lord and God. After you have received the Body and Blood of the Lord, and before you retake your seat, it is a good practice to genuflect in adoration of the Lord who is still present at the altar.

Genuflecting depends upon where the tabernacle is situated. If it is center of the sanctuary you genuflect to the tabernacle as you pass the center of the sanctuary and when you enter or exit your pew. If the tabernacle is situated off into a Blessed Sacrament chapel and is not situated within the sanctuary you are to reverence the Altar with a profound bow.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM 2003):

274. A genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, signifies adoration, and therefore it is reserved for the Most Blessed Sacrament, as well as for the Holy Cross from the solemn adoration during the liturgical celebration on Good Friday until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.
275. A bow signifies reverence and honor shown to the persons themselves or to the signs that represent them. There are two kinds of bows: a bow of the head and a bow of the body.
- A bow of the head is made when the three Divine Persons are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated.
 - A bow of the body, that is to say a profound bow, is made to the altar; during the prayers *Munda cor meum* (Almighty God, cleanse my heart) and *In spiritu humilitatis* (Lord God, we ask you to receive); in the Creed at the words *Et incarnatus est* (by the power of the Holy Spirit . . . made man); in the Roman Canon at the words *Supplices te rogamus* (Almighty God, we pray that your angel). The same kind of bow is made by the deacon when he asks for a blessing before the proclamation of the Gospel. In addition, the priest bows slightly as he speaks the words of the Lord at the consecration.

Also, please remember to genuflect by touching both knees to the ground before entering the pew when the Holy Eucharistic is visible on the altar in Adoration. This will also occur if you arrive at Mass after the Consecration. In these two cases touch both knees to the ground, make the sign of the Cross, and bow.

Sources: forums.catholic.com and catholiclife.blogspot.com

Counsels (cont. from page 1)

In Galatians, Paul describes the demands of following Jesus in a different way; that Christ has set those who follow him free from slavery. That apart from Christ we are slaves to sin; in Christ we are free. However we can use this freedom to return to slavery. Freedom is not independence, but dependence on God and interdependence with others. In order to remain free to follow Jesus, we must take a completely different direction in life than we did formerly and be guided by the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. Then shall we be able to “*serve one another through love*” and not “*biting and devouring one another*” (Gal 5:13, 15). Loving our neighbor as ourselves may be just as difficult and just as much a participation of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In community, we are like the disciples who never had an easy discipleship; for every time they thought they got it made, our Lord challenged them. Like them, most of us started from completely the wrong places but through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit we might reach the final and blessed destination. We are all engaged on a Spiritual Journey. Just as Christ was heading towards Jerusalem, so too, are we heading towards our own Jerusalem, meaning our goal. We need therefore to realize that following Christ requires Commitment and Faith. It requires commitment because no one ever said that this journey would be easy. Prayer is most important here and being reminded that Christ understands and promises us no less, our commitment is renewed.

Faith is the well-spring which sustains us; the Faith which we give thanks for in communing with Jesus in the Eucharist, which nourishes, guides and helps us through this journey. It is this Faith which we need to nurture both in ourselves and within others, a faith which looks outwards and spreads throughout our community; and a faith which needs to challenge the threats to it from the secular world.

What could be the most important goal of our community? I would say, tending our youth, the militants of tomorrow. It is not too late for the restoration of our families wherein “Fear of the Lord” should be inculcated especially in young children. Maybe the March for Life, being advocated for so many years, is just a step towards the real answer, which is forming the next generation of evangelizers with a strong moral and spiritual foundation.

We are all called for a mission. If we do not engage in mission then the Gospel message will be lost and countless souls will be lost as well. Here we are talking about the mission of communion, the evangelism of kindness and love and the sharing of a journey. It might mean rejection, it might mean a move out of our comfort zones, but it is what the Gospel calls us to do. Even if we risk it blowing out of our faces, at least we will have died trying to do God's will on earth.

Directions:

- To support and attend our upcoming Youth Rally and Inter-district Youth Conference
- To guide our children in the fear of the Lord.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talino)
Cars for Economic and skills development aide
Donate your car & get a tax deductible receipt (free towing).
Proceeds will be use for breaking the yoke of poverty:
Sagip ka Eskuela & Scholarship Program
YTD Donation: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.
We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit
56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
July 10 • Singles Ministry • Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalonzo singles@bldnewark.com
Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITIES

(AFCCPC) - 3rd Eastern Regional conference
July 2-4 • Hilton Hotel, Brunswick, NJ
Pre-registration fee: \$35-adults \$15-Youth/Singles
Walk-ins: \$40-adults and \$20-Youth/Singles
Contact: Frank/Malou Venadas bobbitski@hotmail.com

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:
http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

DIVINE MERCY PARISH CHARTER MEMBER INVITATION FROM FR. DENNIS

All are invited to be part of the new parish's history. A time capsule will be placed and kept for our descendants many years from now. Put your name in an envelope, and if you want, your or family picture and a brief history of yourself and your family including how you came to the USA and St. Mary's. There are no obligations.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Youth Encounter 17

July 9-11 • CYO Retreat Center, Kearney, NJ
\$130/candidate. Contact: Ray/Susie Atienza 908-463-0449
asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or yca@bldnewark.com

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
Application available at www.bldnewark.com

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JUNE 4, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,774	78,190
Expenses	2,943	91,248
Surplus/(Deficit)	831	(13,058)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

DIVINE MERCY PARISH INSTALLATION

FR. DENNIS RE-INSTALLATION AS PASTOR

July 1, 2010 • 6:30pm assembly St. Mark's
Mass at 7pm at St. Mary's will be preceded by a procession from St. Mark's to St. Mary's. Bishop Cruz will celebrant and officiate both ceremonies.

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION

WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug 7-8 • Time (to be announced)
Newark's Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.
Inviting DCS, IDCS and DLC of Newark Cluster and East Coast BLD Districts

BLD COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 21 • 8:30-6pm • Johnson Park, NJ
Visit www.bldnewark.net for details.

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA
It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ
Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

Renew Prayer: Gracious God and Father, we are your people embraced by your love. We thank you for your presence with us throughout all time. Create us anew through Jesus Christ your Son. Liberate us from all that keeps us from you. Send your Holy Spirit, enabling us to share in your work of recreating our world and restoring justice. Heal us from every form of sin and violence. Transform us to live your Word more profoundly. Reconcile us so enemies become friends. Awaken us to the sacred; nurture our relationships. Enliven our parishes; reunite our families. Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life. Empower us to be a community of love growing in your likeness by the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 25

Bulletin Edition

July 2, 2010

A Very Spirit-Filled Weekend

Our most recent Solo Parent Encounter #12 was held on June 25-27, 2010 at the CYO Retreat House in Kearny, NJ. The Spiritual Director was Msgr. Paul Schetelick. It was a very spirit-filled weekend for 23 candidates who opened up to the Lord and are now willing to start with their journey to God's Kingdom. Let us pray that they will continue to become seeds planted on good soil, bearing fruits a thousand-fold! The new SPE12 class will be led by their Class Shepherds, Lando & Dory Bonifacio.

Let us give a warm welcome to our SPE 12 brethren: Estrella Aggabao, Joseph Appel, Vicente Lito Calimoso, Fe Chenet, Miles Dionisio*, Dinah Encarnacion*, Belen Grasparil, Jean Gutierrez, Jessica Herb, Lilia Manlapaz, Violeta Meneses, Lydia Mercado-Boswick, Carlos Ocasio, Julito Pasturan, Resty Rivera*, Vivian Roz*, Stella Rubilar, Ruben Serrano, Grace Soares, Ruben Torres, Ana Marie Vales*, Elizabeth Vega and Lucille Vizcano.

Let us keep them in our prayers that God's spirit of love envelope them as they walk His narrow path to Life. *Coordinators

Pontiff: Be More Radical in Following Christ

Calls Saying Yes to God a "Beautiful Experience"

VATICAN CITY, JUNE 27, 2010 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- On the last Sunday of the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart, Benedict XVI invited the faithful to be more willing and radical in responding to a call from Christ.

The Pope made these comments today in a short address before praying the midday Angelus with crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square, which he dedicated to the theme of "Christ's call and its demands."

"Whoever has the fortune to know a young man or young woman who leaves their family, their studies or work to consecrate himself or herself to God [...] has before him a living example of radical response to the divine calling," the Holy Father began.

He called the affirmative response to God's call "one of the most beautiful experiences that one has in the Church," in which one sees "the Lord's action in people's lives, touch[es] it with one's hand; experienc[es] that God is not an abstract entity, but a Reality so great and powerful *Continued on page 4*

COUNSELS

God's Workers In Action

WORD: Is 66:10-14c; Ps 66:1-7,16,20; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

THEME: The Lord's committed servants work for the conversion of others.

ORDER: *"Come and see the works of God, His tremendous deeds among the children of Adam."* (Psalm 66:5)

REFLECTION:

All of us know the saying "action speaks louder than words." Our actions show more clearly what we mean than our spoken words. It simply means "Don't tell me how things are or how to do this or that, **show me!**"

The Gospel reading today shows this principle. Jesus sends seventy-two disciples ahead of Him to every place He intended to visit. They did not go outside Palestine. It foretells the future mission after Pentecost to the known number of the Gentile nations at that time. It corresponds to the sending of the twelve apostles (Luke 9:1-6 and Matthew 9:35-10:1-42) to the twelve tribes of Israel.

In instructing the seventy-two on their mission, we note that there is a big disproportion in what they are to say and what they are to be and to do. Perhaps, Jesus did tell them the talking points or themes of their preaching but did not insist on the specific content of their message.

What they were to say is summarized in two sentences. First, a simple greeting: "Peace to this house." The second contains the substance of the preaching message: "The kingdom of God is at hand for you." The word **peace** could mean absence of war and strife between nations or it could indicate peace with oneself. The disciples used the word **peace** as an all-encompassing word to *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"...Rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20b)

Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen And Believed

In September, I received a phone call from my mother telling me that my uncle had been in an accident. He was in the hospital and temporarily paralyzed. My uncle was so strong and could beat all his brothers in golf. My uncle was so smart that he could sit in a corner and solve the Rubik's Cube. My uncle was so thoughtful that he never failed to greet anyone in our family a happy birthday. My uncle was now so weak and fragile, and it broke our hearts.

My family and I felt we were in the same place with Mary Magdelene that first Easter morning. We saw the emptiness of Christ's tomb and automatically mourn the loss of someone so great. When tragedy occurs it is easy to miss God's gentle touch guiding us through. We cannot let our sorrow block out God's many graces. We must be open to recognize when Jesus is standing right in front of us, just as Mary Magdelene did.

Since then, my uncle's condition has improved; thanks to the many heartfelt prayers received from this community. He is now at home with his family and undergoing therapy to regain mobility. The journey to recovery has not been smooth, but my aunt and my cousins have not stopped praying. Our latest challenge was finding the money to obtain a wheelchair accessible van that would not only give him access to the outside world, but would also allow him to attend outpatient therapy. We were weary; the task was daunting, but we could not doubt.

On June 5, 2010, our family came together for a golf tournament that my uncle's friends had set up to raise money for his handicap van. That day, 109 golfers registered to give the game their all for a man in need. The innate kind-heartedness of people never ceases to amaze me. The generosity did not end with the participants. Strangers in the clubhouse gave what they could when they heard why we were there. At the end of the day, we were able to raise much more than we expected, all for my uncle. I couldn't thank the Lord enough for creating mankind in His image.

If we had doubted as Thomas had, then we would have been blinded. We would not have been able to recognize Jesus working hard to help us in our darkest hours. Jesus said to Thomas in John 20:29, ***"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*** We held onto our faith before we saw, and now that we have witnessed Jesus' miracles we have no choice but to spread the Good News.

The Christ

Images have stood for certain meanings. A group of pictures were shown to a group of elementary students. They were quick to reply how the images stood for Santa Claus, famous American presidents, Ronald Mc Donald and the Statue of Liberty. Then, a picture of a middle-aged bearded Jesus Christ with a bleeding heart threw the kids to a head-scratching frenzy. This was not a scene straight out of America's Funniest Videos. This happened in the internet-fuelled information highway of modern-day America.

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked, *"But who do you say that I am?"* It's hard to imagine how modern man perceives Jesus Christ. Given that it's hard to distinguish the Jesus of history with the Christ of faith, is anyone up to a personal definition of Jesus Christ? The great question may be: Who is Jesus Christ in my life?

Is He the Christ of the seven sacraments? From baptism to the anointing of the sick, from the moment you're born up to the moment you die, Christ is there. How about the Christ who's been always there in between the sacraments?

What form did Christ take in times of your marital squabbles? Or when you were down to your last dollar and your kids needed new clothes because winter was fast approaching? Or that unforgettable time when you had to rush back to the Philippines because a parent was sick but you still had work to do and bills to pay?

Christ is the provider, a willing friend, a comforter, the healer and the miracle worker. He may even be that child who smiled at you outside the church or the one who said in the evening after a hard day's work, "Sorry Mommy, I spilled the milk on the carpet again!"

He's been there with us. For all we know, He's that voice in us, which we have chosen to disregard because the microwave dinner is already set or our favorite soap is about to start on TV. In between wakefulness and sleep, He's the one who reminds us to take notice of the day's achievements and perhaps find a few seconds' worth of gratitude.

When Christ asked His disciples who they thought He was, was He not directing the question to all of us who are blessed enough at this moment to read and feel His words? And once in our lives, have we not asked where was Jesus when the friends we thought we had were not there and close relatives were giving us the cold shoulder. Unless we realize that He is everywhere and He is in everything, only then can we know that we are part of His Grand Design. And in the grand scheme of things, chances are, the Christ we may have been searching is in us all along!

COUNSEL (from page 1)

indicate that everyone on earth is at peace with God, neighbor and self. If we have the peace of Christ, it means that the kingdom of God is upon us. We share this peace amongst us in every mass that we attend. With St. Francis, we pray that God will make us the channels of the peace of Christ to others.

Rather than instructing in more detail what to say, Jesus insisted a lot more on their behavior, what to be and what to do.

First, they are to pray to ask the Harvest Master to send more workers to His vineyard. They must be ready to go themselves. Jesus said, "Be on your way."

Second, being sent as lambs in the midst of wolves, the missionary must completely rely on Jesus, who will be their protector against all opposition.

Third, they must travel light, not cluttered with material and earthly things; in Jesus' words - money, bag, etc. which would distract them from the task at hand.

Fourth, they must greet no one on the way signifying the urgency and single-mindedness required for the mission.

Fifth, a missionary shall expect hospitality and support from people. Jesus said "the laborer deserves his payment" (Luke 10:7) yet, he must not move from one congregation to another to find a better place. After all Christ told His apostles, "You receive without pay, give without pay." (Matthew 10:8)

Sixth, preaching the Good News brings joy as the seventy-two disciples did on their return. They rejoiced because the power of Satan was broken and rightly so. Yet, Jesus reminded the disciples that the main reason for their joy should be because their names are written in heaven. This is foreshadowed in the first reading where God, through the words of the Prophet Isaiah, brings hope and rejoicing with the promise of a New Jerusalem.

Finally, the joy and peace that the mission brings must be tempered with praise and thanksgiving; otherwise, the success of the mission will usher in pride and arrogance as it did with Satan who fell from the sky like lightning.

I read a story of Jesus' arrival in heaven. He was asked whom He had left behind on earth to finish the work that He began. He replied, "Just a small group of men and women who love me." "No back-up plan? What if this tiny group should fail?" was the astonished response. Jesus answered, "I have no other plan."
Continued on the next column ➔

WHAT BLD MEANS TO ME

When asked to describe themselves, most people tend to start out by saying what they do for a living- I'm an accountant, a doctor, a nurse, a consultant, etc. or I'm the spouse of so and so, the parent of him and/or her, the brother/sister of...

I would have tended to go that way, too, but now I hope the main role I am able to fulfill is that of being a "Servant of the Lord". Before BLD, I would never have thought that way; and yet, it's really the most important role one can play.

Among other things, BLD has helped me to be closer to God, closer to Jesus. We've all heard stories about peoples' past lives as cafeteria Catholics. I do not mean to judge others' faith. I can only really attest to my own. And yes, BLD has helped me, most specially, to tune in more to God's wavelength, finding out what I think He wants me to do.

Someone once said that we are a reflection of what we surround ourselves with. As I surround myself with BLD people and their activities, I hope I become a reflection of them all because I like what I see. It seems that the good Lord has found it fit for me to serve Him through BLD.

And now, there really is no turning back, because now I **need** BLD. I need to be involved in God's work that BLD does. Now I can not turn my back on it, not when I know that it is helping to pave, a "spiritual highway to heaven" for everyone.

And so I see BLD as God's gift to me, because then I'm able to say that I'm truly working on fulfilling the most important role of all - being His servant.

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

Here is the challenge for us my brothers and sisters: "to continue the work that Jesus started". But first, let us follow St. Paul's admonition in the second reading, who emphasized the value of interior conversion and disposition. Through Baptism, the Holy Spirit is here to guide, help and strengthen us in our mission to reconcile all creation back to the Father.

Jesus is counting on you and me. Let us be on our way. We DON'T have to TALK much. Just SHOW how much Jesus loves THEM through us.

Let us close with St. Teresa's prayer: *Christ has no body on earth but yours; No hands but yours; No feet but yours; Yours are the eyes through which He is to look out; Christ's compassion to the world; Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless now. Amen.*

DIRECTIONS

- ✓ Be a living witness of God's love and power in the way you live and speak.
- ✓ Intensify your Mission programs in the parishes, community outreaches and institutions.

BLD VISION & MISSION

Vision

Community - We are a communion of families and a community of persons, called together as one people through a moment of encounter and a process of renewal, to a relationship of faith, hope and love with God.

Christian - We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, by our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and by our uniting compassion with one another.

Charismatic - We are blessed with personal gifts, spiritual and natural, innate or acquired, which we yield to the Word and Spirit.

Caring and Giving - We give freely and fully of ourselves and love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's kingdom.

Covenant Discipleship - Through our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, we commit as disciples to be a countersign to all that is at war with the teachings of our Lord, and to emerge victorious in living and sharing the values of our Christian faith.

Mission

The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
- Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
- Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
- Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
- Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.
- Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

[http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm](http://www.bldnewark.net/Website%20Files/treasury_4.htm)

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!!

Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450 word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JUNE 25, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,836	81,026
Expenses	1,235	92,484
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,601	(11,458)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Be More Radical in Following Christ *(from pg 1)*

that He can fill man's heart in a super-abundant way. He is a Person who is alive and near, who loves us and asks us to love him."

The Holy Father reflected on several passages from the Gospel in which Christ is "very demanding" with several disciples who express their desire to follow Him. Christ informs the would-be disciples that "whoever chooses to work with Him in God's field cannot change his mind," and must "completely sever his familial bonds."

"These demands might appear too harsh," Benedict XVI continued, "but in reality they express the newness and absolute priority of the Kingdom of God that is made present in the Person Himself of Jesus Christ. In the final analysis it is the radicality that is owed to the Love of God, whom Jesus is the first to obey."

The Pontiff continued: "Whoever renounces everything, even himself, to follow Jesus, enters into a new dimension of freedom that St. Paul defines as 'walking according to the Spirit.'

"Christ has freed us for freedom!" the Apostle writes, and explains that this new form of freedom acquired for us by Christ consists in being 'in the service of each other.'

"Freedom and love coincide! Obeying one's own egoism, on the contrary, leads to rivalry and conflict."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com or yca@bldnewark.com

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July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

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Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net

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WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 26

Bulletin Edition

July 9, 2010

Here I am Lord, Send Me

In this Scripture reading, God calls Isaiah to proclaim His message to people who had fallen away from Him into idolatry, unfaithfulness and superficial worship. God's calling to Isaiah was in one of the darkest times of Israel's history. It is not far from our world's condition today which is marked with moral and spiritual decline. Now, more than ever, God's call to us, His people, to go forth with the message of the gospel of salvation, resonates loud and clear.

The first question in the passage "*Whom shall I send,*" is a call to service to all of us who, by virtue of our baptism, are tasked with spreading the word of God. Like Isaiah, we need to prepare ourselves for that mission but because of our sinfulness and concerns with our daily living, we end up being dominated by misplaced priorities. Oftentimes, we fail to set aside time for God because of distractions from family, work or personal needs and desires.

The second question, "*And who will go for us?*" implies action on our part. We need our spiritual eyes to be opened to recognize God's love, and trust that He will never abandon us. We need to use our mouths to speak words of faith and love in order to build others up, be it at home, at work, or in community. God wants us to make a personal decision in accepting His call. When we know who God is and God's wonderful grace for our life and the miserable life of sin that He saved us from, then there is absolutely no hesitation whatsoever. Our response involves total commitment to Him, just as He gives us His unconditional and constant love. If we have come to know and experience the love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit's workings in our lives, our transformed selves are prodded into a life of service. We are led to proclaim the great things the Lord has done for us, just like the Samaritan woman who, upon encountering Jesus' love, gave her life-testimony to the townspeople who had known her to be a sinful woman; or Simon and Andrew, who instantaneously dropped their fish nets to follow the call of Jesus. In community, our availability and commitment to ministry work should take priority, our service to community should not be adapted to fit our schedules; rather, our schedules should consider service to community first and foremost over other activities. Christ's call to serve merits a spontaneous response from us. *Here am I Lord, send me.*

COUNSELS

Loving God

WORD: Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14,17,30-37; Col 1:15-20, Lk 10: 25-37

THEME: The Lord's committed servants carry out works of mercy.

- ORDER:
1. "***You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind.***" (Lk. 10:27a)
 2. "***Go and treat your neighbor with mercy.***" (Lk. 10:37)

REFLECTION:

How should we love God?

The answer to this question is right in this Sunday's Gospel. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Lk 10:27. Otherwise stated, we are to give our 100% to God. We cannot love God, any less than this. We cannot love God half-heartedly, or conditionally. We are to love God all the time, in all circumstances, and above everything. The scripture also says that God's command to love Him is not distant. It is inscribed in our hearts and in the depths of our conscience.

The reality however, for most of us, is that loving God as He wants us, is a major challenge, because we are in a world full of hatred, greed, deception, exploitation and confusion. We live in a society where people are preoccupied with the pursuit of power, fame, fortune, worldly wealth and pleasures or self-aggrandizement. Hence, most of us have become oblivious to loving or serving God.

How can we refocus ourselves on Christ and give our whole being to our Lord?

Most of us here in BLD presumably know the answer to this question. We can refocus on our Lord by soaking ourselves in his word, by being compassionate to everyone, by doing acts

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. The descendants of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall inhabit it."

(Ps 69:37)

Shepherd's Voice:

Living in His Divine Mercy

When Archbishop Myers announced that Divine Mercy Parish would be the name of our newly-merged parish, I was immediately aware of the fact that there was more than a name involved in what he wrote. The Catholic community assembling here was being assigned a vocation and mission. We were not merely being given a new name. As a successor to the apostles, the Archbishop was passing on to us what Jesus meant when He said, "As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you."

Jesus sent the apostles and in doing so, He empowered them to be what He sent them to do.

By the power of Jesus, the Archbishop was doing to us what Jesus did to the apostles. We are being empowered by God to be what He is calling and sending us to do. We must be *mercy* with and for everyone we encounter.

This has to start with ourselves. We must desire and receive God's mercy with gratitude and be willing and joyful instruments of His mercy.

All who are baptized have this responsibility. We are asked by the Church to be the very incarnation of mercy. We have the responsibility to think, speak and act in every way, and at all times reflecting a concrete expression of mercy. Mercy is real, here and now, in and through us.

We imitate the nature of God when we live by the Fifth Beatitude. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Mercy is life giving love. Having mercy may also be called the act of giving birth in the spirit. The best remedy to self-pity or despair is charity or having mercy on others.

In His love, God, wants to fill our hearts with life and joy. Mercy seeks to restore each of us to the image in which God created us. Mercy is redemptive and transformative.

The beauty of this message is not too good to be true. BLD has consistently demonstrated the credibility of this hope. Very difficult situations have been successfully resolved because of the charism of mercy flowing from BLD members. Our cynical culture is threatened by the beauty and the promise held out by these words. Satan's influence and power is diminished where mercy is present. Those who manifest mercy are not always appreciated, at the time. May we trust in Jesus to form us in His school of mercy. BLD is a big help to us, even people who may not be considered members are helped by the witness of the community, to become people of mercy. With God's grace we will be faithful to our newly-assigned vocation and mission.

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

"Straight are the paths of the Lord" (Hosea 14:10)

I was asked to write on "the path to the Lord". How timely and fitting, I thought, since I am now on my way to becoming a covenanted disciple. But when I read the manual, fear came upon me. This is what the Lord is asking of me? And I shied away -- afraid that I may not be able to respond.

"Be truthful, obedient to the covenant," I read. Lord, You show me the straight path and yet I tend to choose to go the long, tortuous way. Is it my humanity? Is it my lack of faith?

Lord, I know, that You are always there and that what comes and presents is of You. I love You, I adore You, I worship You Lord. You have been good to me all my life; yet, I find myself full of questions, unable to follow the path you have shown me.

Together, my husband and I raised our children, provided for them as best we could, while having both our careers. Our careers took off pretty well but as we were preparing for retirement, You took him away. But I am not alone as, Lord, you are always with me. I ask, Lord, that you be with me always. Take control of my life as You have done all this time, though I was hardly aware and conscious of it.

Now, I am more aware that You are with me; that You are the one making plans for me. I have been praying for Your guidance, praying for enlightenment and yet now that You are laying the path for me, I ignore Your gentle prodding and turn a deaf ear to You and to Your wishes. Why do I do this to You, Lord?

Please, Lord, help me stay on the straight and narrow path so that I will be able to join You at Your banquet when my time comes.

I accept that I am not perfect, that I may not be able to fulfill what is asked of me, but it is only through Your Holy will that I will be able to fully follow and comply with this covenant.

Thank you, Lord, for opening my eyes. Amen.

A Five Second Reflection:

...But that light does shine in numerous places, including some where you least expect it...

Spreading the Word, that Jesus is Lord...

Make the Covenant News part of your Covenant Life!

MAHAL NA KAPATID...

A stewardship appeal to both active and inactive members:

Mahal na Kapatid / Dear Brother/Sister in Christ,

When times are tough, that's when we really need God in our lives. That is also when we need the support from each other the most. Throughout BLD Newark's 17+ year history, it has always sought to uplift the spiritual, as well as the temporal conditions of its members and of those less fortunate.

Yes times nowadays are tough... But BLD remains committed to fulfilling Christ's mission - to love and serve God and one another. As He commanded, in Mark 12:30-31, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

From here locally in New Jersey, to far-flung barrios in the Philippines, in both words and action, BLD will continue to provide the support it can, to the multitudes in need. Be it spiritually, via worship, teachings, intercessions and word sharings; physically, via participations in nursing home visitations, soup kitchen service and its annual Philippine Medical Mission; or, materially thru its financial assistance programs, as in its Gawad Kalinga and Isaiah 58 Ministry efforts.

Because times are indeed tough, the sufferings of the needy just seem to get compounded even more. It is then up to those of us whom the Lord has blessed, to justly share some of those blessings. Mahal na Kapatid please consider giving of your time, talent and/or treasure, back to our Creator thru BLD. And in so doing, empower the BLD community to "demonstrate faith from works." (James 2:18)

If it has been a while, consider coming back to BLD, where everyone is indeed welcome! Join us in worship, and come back, again and again and again. Re-discover Christ and open your spirit to Him - "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

May God Bless you and the Peace of Christ be with you always.

Maraming Salamat Po!



COUNSEL (from page 1)

of mercy towards our neighbors like a good Samaritan, by coming to church regularly, by attending our BLD Friday worships where we get refreshed and nourished by his word, by attending our BLD teachings so we can learn more about our Lord, by following Jesus as a good disciple, by actively participating in our ministry works, and basically by having Jesus in our hearts and just doing everything 'for the Lord'. When we are focused on our Lord, our way of life changes, our interests become more attuned to God, our decisions become based on truth only and our whole being clamors for what is Godly. Loving God becomes second nature to us when we constantly fill our hearts and minds with Jesus. We know that Christ is working in us when we become more God-fearing, more compassionate, more loving, more understanding, more prayerful, more giving and forgiving. We know that the Holy Spirit indwells in our hearts when we have more peace of mind, when our tongues are tamed, when we are slow to anger and less judgmental, or when we find joy in serving others. We have love for Jesus in our hearts when we place the interests of others ahead of ours.

When we truly love God, we see his face in everyone around us. God wants us to love our neighbor as ourselves. This command is not difficult to follow if we believe that Jesus is indeed in the person of our neighbor. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus made us understand that our neighbor is the person in need of our help. Jesus thru this parable, taught us how to really love our neighbor. We should not be like the priest nor the Levite who, despite their education and social standing, avoided the victim who was left half-dead by the robbers, by passing on the opposite side of the road. We should be like the good Samaritan who, in spite of his lowly status, showed compassion and mercy for the victim, a total stranger, by pouring oil over his wounds, bandaging them and carrying him to the inn-keeper for care.

How many of us are like the priest and the Levites who prefer to ignore our neighbor who is in dire need of help? When faced with situations where someone needs our help, how many times have we looked away or gone the other way so as not to be bothered and avoid responsibility? This parable convicts all of us who are guilty of indifference to the needy and helpless.

As Mother Teresa exemplified the good Samaritan. "I try to give to the poor people for love, what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God"

DIRECTIONS

1. Strengthen and sustain our corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
2. Revitalize/staff the Jeremiah Healing Ministry.

BLD VISION & MISSION

Vision

Community - We are a communion of families and a community of persons, called together as one people through a moment of encounter and a process of renewal, to a relationship of faith, hope and love with God.

Christian - We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, by our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and by our uniting compassion with one another.

Charismatic - We are blessed with personal gifts, spiritual and natural, innate or acquired, which we yield to the Word and Spirit.

Caring and Giving - We give freely and fully of ourselves and love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's kingdom.

Covenant Discipleship - Through our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, we commit as disciples to be a countersign to all that is at war with the teachings of our Lord, and to emerge victorious in living and sharing the values of our Christian faith.

Mission: The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
 - Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
 - Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
 - Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
 - Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.
- Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

[http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm](http://www.bldnewark.net/Website%20Files/treasury_4.htm)

Announcing a Writing Spotlight for 2010!!!

Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450 word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Family Encounter 17

July 16-18 • Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA
 Contacts: Sundee/Neneng Ikalina cristeff5@gmail.com,
 Joe/Bambi Pascoguin bpascoguin@comcast.net
 Application available at www.bldnewark.com

YOUTH INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2010

Aug. 13-15 • St. Killian Parish, Farmingdale, NY
 Visit www.bldnewark.net for details

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A. www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talino)

Cars for economic and skills development aide Donate your car & get a tax deductible receipt (free towing). Proceeds will be use for breaking the yoke of poverty: Sagip ka Eskuela & Scholarship Program

YTD Donation: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors

Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

July 10 • Singles • Contacts: Manny/Arlene Mangalanzo

singles@bldnewark.com

• Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Jul 24-ME# 28** Contacts:

Efren/Yolly Cruz 201.562.5072 • Joe/Bambi Pascoguin

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 2, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,081	83,107
Expenses	8,856	101,339
Surplus/(Deficit)	(6,775)	(18,232)

Henry Gamboa Collection: \$1,291

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO Aug 7-8

Newark's Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.

Inviting DCS, IDCS and DLC of Newark Cluster and East Coast BLD Districts

BLD COMMUNITY DAY

Aug 21 • Time & Venue (to be announced)

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 27

Bulletin Edition

July 16, 2010

NEWS

UNFORGETTABLE FOR 39 TEENAGERS

The weekend of July 9-11 was unforgettable for 39 teenagers who compose the class of BLD Newark's Youth Encounter #17. This year's YE, held at the Archdiocese of Newark's CYO Retreat Center in Kearny, NJ, was truly filled with the Lord's graces, as all who participated fully contributed their time and talents to making the weekend a success for God's glory. The members of YE17 are: Grace Abes, James Abes, David Alba, James Avila, Tommy Avisado, Cassandra Beltran, Rachelle Camposagrado, Rodel Camposagrado*, Alana Canares, Fiona Capil, Justine Enriquez*, Sheryll Estrellas, Abby Fabe, Raul Gutierrez, Kevin Larobis, Erika Lim*, Naomi Lopez, TJ Matias, Kate McSpedon, Jeanelle Nacion*, Onyeka Okafor, Jelyn Osoteo, Kay Panaguiton*, Elana Pascoguin, Christian Pascual, Katherine Quiza, Phil Quiza, Zachary Quiza, Stephanie Racaza, Gerard Rangel*, Robert Rivera, Bret Reyes, Michael Sumandal, Ken Taraya, Nicko Tolentino, Megan Trinidad, Christina Viscayno, Rita Yglesias*, and James Ymbong. Romeo and Emmy Espina were given the task of shepherding the youth, while Carlo Loreto and Alissa Abad were their youth counterparts. Father Paul Lehman was the weekend's Spiritual Director. The weekend was facilitated by youth members JV Reyes, Joseph DeGuzman, Cathy Duma, and Stevie Olaso.

The most important lesson that the YE17 class took with them was that as a community, they could grow together and find love in one another with God as the center of their lives. Just ask any of the YE17 class how their weekend was – they will respond with their distinct class roll call: “MMM, MMM, GOOD!”.
* Coordinators

Read more about YE 17 on page 3.

COUNSELS

SERVICE AND PRAYER

WORD: Gn 18:1-10a; Ps 15:2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10: 38-42

THEME: **The Lord's committed servants find joy in prayer and service.**

ORDER: *“Walk without blame, do what is right, speak the truth from the heart.”* (Ps. 15:2)

REFLECTION:

Jesus was an important man and Martha was determined to give Him the love and honor He deserved. She considered it of utmost importance to care for the fine points of service so that Jesus and His entourage would have a good time while at her home. With all her good intentions, she slowly realized that it was difficult to make the visit of Jesus perfect as there were a lot of items she had to address. In her quest for their comfort she was overwhelmed and therefore complained. Because of this, Jesus gently corrected her.

Martha, though preoccupied with minor items, was also mighty in Spirit because she recognized that to serve was to act in praise of Christ. Her realization that the love Jesus bestowed on her was a gift made her over-concerned as to how to please Him. She had a thankful heart which found its way into her yet imperfect service.

Looking at the goodness of Martha's heart, I wish to highlight her service for the Lord as a natural outpouring of her love for Christ.

On the other hand, we find Mary, Martha's sister, as a devoted and dedicated student at the feet of Jesus. We see her not only totally focused on Jesus but with an attitude of humble submission. Jesus found in her a heart of devotion and love for the things of God. Her authentic devotion never faded and was not

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“One who does these things shall never be disturbed.” (Ps 15:5)

The Invitation

“Come to me all of you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:28)

This verse reminds us of how we approach the throne of grace offered to us by the Lord. He invites us to be with Him; but because of our own free will, we tend to follow our heart’s desires that may not belong to God. We tend to do things in our own selfish ways.

The invitation of the Lord to be with Him manifests His great unconditional love for us. He calls us to be with Him in the Blessed Sacrament so we can offer Him our burdens and afflictions. After all, He is our Creator and the One who answers all our prayers. His compassion and healing presence in our lives keep us from falling apart. He gives us peace, hope, and the grace to love our brothers and sisters who are longing for a wholesome life on earth that will bring them to eternal salvation.

Our Lord God calls us to follow Him willingly and intimately, to serve Him faithfully, and to worship and adore Him reverently. In our eagerness to answer His call, we know we must be obedient. But sometimes, we do not respond immediately and later say, “I am convicted for not being responsive to His invitation; I should have said ‘Yes, Lord, I will follow you and be with you always.’” Other questions may be posed: Can we stay with Him without being inconsistent? Can we say “Yes” with all the sincerity in our hearts? Let us remember that the Lord is inviting us to be with Him ... a call that will transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.

As we answer Him and start praying contemplatively to Him in the Blessed Sacrament, we start hearing His voice telling us what to do in our lives, in our work, in our community, and in the larger church. Through meditation, we establish an intimate relationship with Him; and His message can be heard distinctly. Truly, our Lord God enlightens us and shows us the way. He grants us the courage and the sustenance to persevere despite the trials and challenges we encounter along the narrow road of our spiritual journey. By His grace, we can be triumphant amidst all adversities, rejection and persecution.

With all our burdens, can we now respond to His invitation? This is the challenge for those who believe, who adore and who serve God: stay with Him, pray to Him, and offer to Him your fears and afflictions. He will surely grant you His healing grace. For always, He is a compassionate and faithful God!

I Desire Mercy Not Sacrifice

This sounds very self centered and yet intriguing because Jesus spoke this passage. ***“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”*** What does it mean? I only long for grace and mercy without any sacrifices? I prefer an easy life with no hard work or sacrificing? This doesn’t sound very Jesus-like. Jesus never thinks of Himself alone. No, Jesus is neither selfish nor insensitive. Instead, this passage shows us how Jesus thinks about His children: that He only desires mercy for us and not sacrifices. Jesus really wants us to be merciful, not to condemn. He desires only the sacrifice that is required by love and by the observance of the commandments. For His part, Jesus makes the greatest sacrifice, as if He took pleasure in relieving our suffering.

Sacrifice and mercy are both good things but they can become bad if misapplied. They are good things when we imitate Christ: He chose sacrifice for Himself and mercy for others. They can become bad things if, on the contrary, we choose mercy for ourselves and sacrifice for others, if we are indulgent with ourselves and rigorous with others, ready to excuse ourselves and quick to judge others. Jesus showed how much He loves us by sacrificing for us. Oftentimes, we fail to realize how great God’s love is. We easily question His justice when we have been deprived of what we want in life. Such is our attitude towards God, without realizing that He has already provided us with the best gift in life, something that we are not capable of accomplishing for ourselves. He gave us righteousness, or purification from sin, through the sacrifice of His Only Son.

“I want mercy, not sacrifice.” Jesus intends for us to understand this. He wants us to realize our capacity to be His follower. He wants us to be faithful and avoid hypocrisy. He has rich blessings in store for those who make the effort. It begins with seeking the Kingdom; and then all the other things will be added, as He promised. Does it mean that all sacrifices and mortifications are useless and that we only need to love to set everything right? In the Imitation of Christ Thomas a Kempis says “one does not live in love without suffering,” and this is confirmed by daily experience. There is no love without sacrifice. Our own lives show how parents make endless sacrifices for their children because of love and because we can desire nothing greater for our children and loved ones than mercy. God only wants love and mercy, but He is always ready to sacrifice for us.

YE 17? Mmm, Mmm Good!

C.Y.O. Retreat Center in Kearny, NJ was the site of another victory in Christ as thirty-eight young men and women answered “yes” to God. Youth Encounter 17 began last Friday as the candidates walked into the retreat center’s mango ice-cream-colored conference room, anxious about what was to come. Forty-eight hours later, they walked out elated, renewed, and ready to face life with a more positive perspective.

“I think I’m going to join BLD now,” one candidate said.

From the outset, the Pastoral Team – Fr. Paul Lehman, J.V. Reyes, Stevie Olaso, Cathy Duma, and Joe De Guzman – advised the candidates: “This is your weekend; what you put in dictates what you get out of it.” And throughout the weekend, the team led the candidates through fun activities, informative discussions, and group sharing – all of which helped them develop their relationship with God, with others and themselves, and with life’s situations.

Sunday’s graduation ceremony was a testament of God’s evangelizing power as YE 17 clapped and sang along to their theme song, “Save the Day,” written by Jocef Baquilod, Youth Ministry’s Praise Coordinator. Moreover, candidates shared their experience, expressed their happiness, and exclaimed their roll call: “Mmm, Mmm, good!”

*Make the Covenant News
Part of your Covenant Life*

PRAYER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

Holy Spirit, powerful Counselor, sacred Bond of the Father and the Son, Hope of the afflicted, descend in my heart and establish in it Your loving dominion. Enkindle in my tepid soul the fire of Your love so that I may be wholly subject to You.

We believe that when You dwell in us, You also prepare a dwelling for the Father and the Son. Deign, therefore, to come to me, Consoler of abandoned souls. Protector of those in need, help the afflicted, strengthen the weak, support the wavering

Come and purify me. Suffer no evil desire to take possession of me. You love the humble and resist the proud. Come to me, glory of the living, hope of the dying. Lead me by your grace that I may be always be pleasing to You. Amen.

*May the blessing and favor of the
Lord be upon those who are
celebrating their birthdays and
wedding anniversaries this week!*

COUNSEL *(from page 1)*

influenced by earthly motivations, what she could do or gain for herself, but came from her true love for God. She was not drawn aside by earthly worries and Jesus was quick to take note of this by contrasting her sister's human efforts with the devotion she had. Her love and service for Jesus grew and was strengthened each time she was in His presence. Mary was a model of devotion and dedication to our Lord's cause, a perfectly submitted student of Jesus.

Each person has certain inclinations on how things should be done and areas where they can excel in serving God and His people. The gifts that God has given each person can be used to express praise to Him, especially if one will use them with a grateful and joyful heart. But they also can be a source of adversity if they become one's avenue for seeking worldly honor and prestige. This highlights a guiding principle for all of us who endeavor to work in the Father's vineyard that one should not be lost in the mechanics of service. Every person should not forget Who enables one to serve and Whom one is serving.

As we serve God, the choice for excellence in Christ is ours. We can only achieve this when we unite our service with our prayer life, when we make the Holy Mass the center of our interior life, and when we seek to be with Jesus from moment to moment.

Our aspiration is to go to Mass everyday and make it the center and the root of our interior life so that our whole day will turn into an act of worship and an extension of our daily Eucharistic celebration. This can only overflow into divine meditation, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and the offering up of our professional work and family life to God. With His grace in us, He will transform our life of service into a life of prayer, making it an acceptable love offering to our Heavenly Father. Prayer, through the Holy Mass, is the center of our heroic dedication and submission to work for God and the root that will nourish our interior struggle to unite our service and our spirits with our Lord in penance for our sins.

Truly, everything in our lives is the work of God when the centrality of our service is prayer; when it becomes a true journey of prayer, of intimacy with God, identifying with Christ in his complete self-giving for the salvation of the world.

Thanks to our union with Christ's sacrifice, our service and prayer have great sanctifying value as our individual lives become authentic offerings to God. With Him in our hearts, we are all transformed, our humble service is turned into a prayer of praise and worship, and our prayer becomes an offering of endless love for our Lord!

DIRECTIONS

1. Live in the presence of God.
2. Make your daily life a prayerful offering of worship to God.

BLD Community Covenant

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer.
3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

SAVE THE DATE

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug 7-8 • Time (to be announced)

Newark's Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.
Inviting DCS, IDCS and DLC of Newark Cluster
and East Coast BLD Districts

BLD COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 21 • 8:30-6pm • Johnson Park, NJ

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[http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm](http://www.bldnewark.net/Website%20Files/treasury_4.htm)

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!!

Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450 word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 9, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,847	86,954
Expenses	6,303	107,642
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,456)	(20,688)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 KOMAPET

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)

Cars for Economic and skills development aide

Donate your car & get a tax deductible receipt (free towing).

Proceeds will be used to break the yoke of poverty:

Sagip ka Eskuela & Scholarship Program

YTD Donation: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors

Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

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note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up**

must be no later than 10:45 pm After 10:45 pm, parents will

be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Jul 24-ME# 28** Contacts:

Efren/Yolly Cruz 201.562.5072 • Joe/Bambi Pascoguin

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 28

Bulletin Edition

July 23, 2010

NEWS

17 Newly Encountered Families

Seventeen beautiful families gathered together this past weekend at Malvern Retreat House in Pennsylvania, in response to God's call to become BLD Newark's Family Encounter 17. The Spirit-filled weekend was led by the Pastoral Team headed by Fr. Pete Literal and two families of sharers, the Calilap and the Atienza families. For FE 16, the sponsoring class, this was the culmination of a year's work, inspired by the spontaneous expressions of love and service of their children. The servanthood of BLD Family Life Apostolate and auxies made the retreat all the more a success.

It was indeed a victorious weekend, perhaps the best summer vacation a family can ever dream of. A spiritual respite from their busy lives, as members were reunited with their families to rediscover renewed love and strength for each other and above all God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

Families witnessed to the healing power of the Spirit as there were many powerful images of family huddles, dialogue, hugs and kisses, tears of joy and happiness. Where there is love, there is the Trinity, the Perfect Family.

It was also a time for fun and laughter as families showcased their talents and skills.

All in all, it was for family renewal and transformation where homes became little churches once again, ready to serve the Lord.

We welcome our FE 17 together with their Shepherd Family, Randy, Beth and Chris Trinidad. Our newly-encountered families are the Abes, Acero, Agapito, Baculio-Engracia, Camposagrado, DeCastro, Fernando, Labang, Larobis, Loreto, Lucero, Mendoza, Ombrete, Pangilinan, Rodriguez, Sun, and Villavicencio.

To God be the Glory!

COUNSELS

Our Prayer

WORD: Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-3, 6-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

THEME: The Lord's committed servants persist in praying for the needs of others.

ORDER: ***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*** (Luke 11:9)

REFLECTION:

When I pray, what do I say? How do I begin? More than knowing the law itself is the importance of understanding the philosophy or the rationale behind the law. The spirit of the law gives us a deeper meaning into its significance.

Then the appropriate question to ask should be *why do I pray?*

The essence of prayer is not the effort to make God give us something. By analogy, we do not want to make friends because of the favors they can give us. In the same token that asking God for something is not a sound basis on why we pray.

Prayer is not just informing God of our needs because He already knows them. ***"Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."*** (Matthew 6:32) For in His goodness, His grace is poured upon everyone. ***"He sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."*** (Matthew 5:45)

In His great love, aside from providing us of our daily needs, He also sends us gifts that are conditioned upon our desire and eagerness to want and accept it. Therefore, the purpose of prayer is to give God the opportunity to bestow the gifts He willed on us if we desire to want them. Thus, a close relationship between the giver and the recipient is established. But we have

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:10)

Walk Humbly With Your God

“You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

On the wall in my office, there is a prayer written by Thomas Merton which, at times, I make my own. In it he prays, “ My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going, I do not see the road ahead of me... But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.”

The Israelites knew how important it was to please God. Their covenant with Him had made them the Chosen People. But after all He had done for His people by bringing them out of Egypt and freeing them from a life of slavery, they often failed to live by His law and follow His commandments. Around 700 B.C. the prophet Micah preached tirelessly, warning the people of God’s growing anger and the judgment that was coming. The people asked Micah what they could do to please God. ***“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow before God most high? Shall I come before him with holocausts, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*** (Micah 6:6-7)

I have often asked myself a similar question, “What more can I do to please God?” I know that God isn’t asking me to sacrifice a thousand rams, but my desire is to please Him. Like so many of my brothers and sisters in BLD, I have found that there are many ways to please God: through prayer and spiritual reading, through daily Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration. All these things along with Friday night Worship and service to the community and my parish have brought me closer to God. But sometimes I still feel there is more I should do. The answer Micah gave the people was very simple. ***“You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.”*** (Micah 6:8) This is what God requires of me on a daily basis. But it is more about doing than about being. It is about living out my faith and putting my beliefs into practice. It means allowing God to take me by the hand and lead me through my day. Even though, like Merton, I don’t know where I am going, I cling to Him and trust in His goodness and mercy.

St. Mary Magdalene “The Apostle to the Apostles”

In the small town of Magdala, between the cities of Capharnum and Tiberias, on the banks of Lake Genesareth, lived a young, attractive woman from a wealthy family. She was called Mary, the Magdalene, an alleged prostitute and sinner but who turned her life around after Jesus cast out seven demons (Luke 8:2 and Mark 16:9) from her. She began to lead a new life, becoming a true disciple of Christ and an example for all humanity.

Not to be confused with Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, Catholic scholars believed it was Mary Magdalene Luke was referring to as the “sinner” who, in the house of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:37), bathe Jesus’ feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed them and anointed them with ointment. It was this repentant act, healing, conversion to new life and close ministry with Jesus that distinguished her from the rest of the women who followed Jesus. And because Mary Magdalene was witness to Christ’s Crucifixion (Matthew 27:55), Burial (Matthew 27:59) and Resurrection (John 20:1), early Christian writings would refer to her as **“the apostle to the apostles.”**

She was there, alongside Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee, when Christ was crucified. She was present at the burial of the Lord when Joseph of Arimathea carried out the lifeless body of Jesus to the tomb. Before her eyes she saw how the entrance to the cave was covered with a large stone. But it was also Mary Magdalene who, at dawn of the third day, saw the stone pushed away and found the tomb empty. It was she whom Christ chose to appear to first. She was the one who recognized the gentle voice of the Risen Lord and cried “Rabboni!”

Tradition relates that Mary Magdalene visited Emperor Tiberias (14-37AD) in Italy and presented him with an **egg** as a symbol of the Resurrection, a new life, with the words: Christ is Risen!” She relayed to him how Jesus, a holy man, was executed and rose from the dead. Tiberius rejected this belief saying, “no one could rise from the dead, anymore than the egg that you hold could turn red.” Miraculously, the egg did turn red. It was this miracle of Mary Magdalene that the custom to give each other paschal eggs on the day of Christ’s Resurrection (Easter Sunday) spread among Christians.

Mary Magdalene remained in Rome preaching the word of God. She moved to Ephesus later in life and helped John the Apostle complete the first 20 chapters of his Gospel until she died.

St. Mary Magdalene’s feast day is July 22.

Apologetics

At what point in Mass does a later arrival not fulfill the Mass obligation?

Can you receive Communion if you are late for Mass?

Prior to Vatican II, the common catechesis was that a person had to be present for the Offertory, Consecration, and Communion or one had not fulfilled the Mass obligation and was required to go to another Mass. While a noble attempt to get people to church on time by giving them the time at which they were late, it had two unforeseen effects:

- Those with freer consciences would arrive after the start of the Mass, knowing that as long as they got there on time for the Offertory all was well. It was not unusual for Catholics to walk in after the Mass began but before the Offertory started.
- Those with tender consciences suffered deeply from scruples and would believe themselves in a state of mortal sin even though their tardiness to Mass was entirely out of their control (e.g., the car broke down; road hazards slowed down traffic; etc.).

Both of these conditions were unhealthy, and following Vatican II the cut-off point of the Offertory was dropped. Another reason that contributed to that was the elevation of the liturgy of the word and the homily to their modern importance in the Mass. Basically, the Church wants us to be there for the full Mass:

Quote:

1. The obligation of assisting at Mass is satisfied wherever Mass is celebrated in a Catholic rite either on a holy day itself or on the evening of the previous day.
2. If it is impossible to assist at a Eucharistic celebration, either because no sacred minister is available or for some other grave reason, the faithful are strongly recommended to take part in a liturgy of the word, if there be such in the parish church or some other sacred place, which is celebrated in accordance with the provisions laid down by the diocesan bishop; or to spend an appropriate time in prayer, whether personally or as a family or, as occasion presents, in a group of families (canon 1248).

If there is just cause for being late to a particular Mass, one has still met one's Sunday obligation (and can receive Communion), but being late should not become a habit. If there is not just cause, one may still have met the Sunday obligation but the fact that one has not treated the Mass

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COUNSELS (from page 1)

to make the first move, as thus says the Lord ***"I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you."*** Luke 11:9)

But Lord how do I begin to pray? What shall I say? As the disciples watched Jesus pray and once He finished, they begged Him, "Lord teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1). Jesus replied, when you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be thy name." The heart of the prayer is the very first word uttered: ***"Father"*** which correspond to the Aramaic word *Abba*. By the Spirit of adoption, (In Romans 9:4) He made us His children. This signifies a strong sense of a relationship that as His children, we possess this high respect and intimacy with God, our Father. The exhortation that follows it, is important as well, ***"hollowed be thy name"*** It is Jesus' main preoccupation that the Father be known, honored and loved.

"Thy Kingdom come" Jesus wants us to inherit with Him His father's kingdom. As St Paul explains, *"The Spirit itself bears witness with your spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ."* (Romans 8:16). We must trust that all prayers are answered, in His time and His ways. It is not our will that matters but His will.

"Give us this day our daily bread" This petition recognizes our dependence upon our Father. That as children, we should have this childlike trust that God knows our needs, (Matthew 6:32) that He can and will supply our needs. It is an implicit confidence on the Father, that we are still helpless without His divine intervention.

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us." A true child of God never forgets that the Father's mercy for our sins depends only on our willingness to forgive others the hurt inflicted upon us. Our Lord, as He puts it in the parable of the King's servant who could not forgive the debt of another servant, said *"Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"* (Matthew 18:33)

"And do not subject us to the final test." We must be cognizant of the fact that the evil one is most anxious to entice us away from our Father. As a child of God, we need the Father's help to resist temptation and He wants us to call on him, *"Call on me in times of trouble. I will rescue you and you will honor me."* (Psalm 59:15)

It is to sum up all our

Continued on page 4

APOLOGETICS (from page 3)

as a serious and holy event to which one should be prompt might be a matter to consider during an examination of conscience. If the matter is not mortally sinful because of lack of full knowledge or lack of free consent, one can still receive Communion. Because there is no longer a cut-off point after which you are late for Mass, the temptation to regularly budget one's time around the Offertory and skid into the pew just as it begins is removed.

When considering the question, our primary concern should be to be present for the re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Those who were present that day two thousand years ago gathered around their Lord as quickly as they could and stayed with him throughout his agony, praying and suffering as well. Two thousand years later, we owe our Lord no less devotion than our forefathers and foremothers in the faith gave him then. *Source: www.CatholicAnswers.com*

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month. **Jul 24-ME# 28** Contacts:
Efren/Yolly Cruz 201.562.5072 • Joe/Bambi Pascoguin

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:
[http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm](http://www.bldnewark.net/Website%20Files/treasury_4.htm)

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!!

Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450 word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

COUNSELS (from page 3)

heartfelt desires which at the end of our prayer we say **AMEN**. It is an endorsement as we say *I agree*. It is the reinforcement to our prayer by adding this emphatically as we say, **so be it**. It is as triumphant as we utter with great pride and joy, Alleluia.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father for in my name He will give you. Ask and you'll receive, so your joy may be complete," (John 16:23-24).

DIRECTIONS

1. Continue to intercede for one another.
2. Persevere in individual, conjugal and communitarian prayers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

13 Heath Lane, Hackettstown, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,685	90,639
Expenses	4,594	112,236
Surplus/(Deficit)	(909)	(21,597)
Henry Gamboa Fund	300	2,993

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION

WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Aug 7-8 • Time (to be announced)

Newark's Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave.

Inviting **DCS, IDCS and DLC** of Newark Cluster

and East Coast BLD Districts

BLD COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 21 • 8:30-6pm • Johnson Park, NJ

Visit www.bldnewark.net for details.

DLC MEETING

Sep. 11 • 1-5PM • Divine Mercy Parish

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 29

Bulletin Edition

July 30, 2010

NEWS

IDC III Rescheduled

On July 12, 2010, our Executive Council of Servant Leaders, or ECSL issued a letter to all BLD Global Leaders regarding the rescheduling of the Third Inter- District Conference (IDC III). This event, originally scheduled on February 18-20, 2011 has been moved to February 4-6, 2011 upon the requests of several members to align the IDC III with the two Medical Missions from BLD-Newark and BLD- Rockville Center. The Conference will be held at the BLD Covenant House in Dasmarias City, Cavite, Philippines. It is hoped that this move will allow more District Leaders to participate and be part of the Conference.

For our part here at BLD- Newark, we are all exhorted to pray for a Spirit-filled Conference that our Global Community may be blessed with all that we need to faithfully respond to the directions to ***“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”*** (Lk 5:4)

MISSION OF BLD

The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
- Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
- Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
- Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
- Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.

Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs

COUNSELS

TREASURES WE NEED

TO STORE

WORD: Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23/ Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17/ Col 3:1-5,9-11/ Lk 12:13-21

THEME: New life in Christ is putting to death earthly desire.

ORDER: ***“...put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator.”*** (Col 3:10)

REFLECTION:

In the gospel reading, a man was asking the Lord to tell his brother to give him his share of their inheritance. This request was not uncommon during those times. When families could not agree peacefully, they would go to court or to a Rabbi. They had the authority to make a decision that would be binding. The Lord said, *“Friend, who appointed me as your judge or arbitrator?”* From the Lord’s comment we could see that He does not want to assume the legislative or judicial power because He does not want to interfere with authorities who are already watching His every move.

The Lord’s next comment to the crowd was to warn them about greed in all forms. A man’s life does not consist of abundance in possession. The Jews at that time considered a wealthy man to be blessed by God, while the poor were looked upon as cursed. Next, Jesus warned them about the pitfalls of abundance. The parable that followed reinforced what the Lord wanted to teach them. The rich man had so much harvest that he had no place to put it. His next move was to rake it all in, tear down his existing barns, and build larger ones. He never thought of sharing the excess with his workers or giving some of it to the church or to the poor. He appropriated for himself much, much more than he could consume.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.” (Col 3:4)

God Gave Us the Little Things Too

It is from God which all things come. *"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change."* (Jas 1:17) He makes each of these perfect for his purposes, even if it appears broken or faulty to us for we do not have the eyes of God. Big, small, life changing, or otherwise, Christ places that item into our life. A stranger who holds the door, a pleasant breeze right when needed, and a moment of pure relaxation and peace all have something in common. They all come into our lives, permitted only by the Holy Father.

Certain daily comforts often go unnoticed or are under-appreciated. In response to that, *"Give thanks to the Lord, invoke His name; make known among the peoples His deeds!"* (Ps 105:1) God truly spoke through the writer of that line. He asks that we not only remember His doings but also extol them out loud. The fact that we have somewhere to go for water, have a snack, and rest our head are things that, while seemingly common, are of paramount concern when taken away. These are the things that God so willingly gives us.

"In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes 5:18) Jesus wants for us to praise him, not only in the good times, but, more importantly, in the hard. We have been told to take ever our smallest sufferings and offer them up to him. A stubbed toe, a crying baby on the bus, or even a hot day all can be given to God in appreciation of His amazing works. These things, while irritating, are not just nuisances but opportunities to work for the glory of God.

Our saving, faultless God deserves all glory from us. He alone can move mountains while still taking care of the smallest flower. He alone can move the stars yet, takes the time to form us. He alone keeps the world in balance, but He still remembers to kiss us on the forehead each and every night. In all that He does, Jesus takes the time to know and touch the lives of His children, all the days of their lives. *"Among the nations' idols is there any that gives rain? Or can the mere heavens send showers? Is it not You alone, O LORD, our God, to whom we look? You alone have done all these things."* (Jer 14:22)

May the blessings and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

The Pearl of Great Price

The BLD Community has taught us, through its Christian Discipleship Formation Program (CDFP), the value of the Kingdom of God. We have come to know that discovering God's Kingdom is like finding the one pearl of great price – the greatest possible treasure – the Lord himself. Selling everything we have to obtain that fine pearl entails so many things. It could mean giving up our friends, our "lifestyle", things we like to do, material possessions, or anything we treasure. The thing we most set our hearts on is our highest treasure.

In the parable of the pearl of great price, what does the treasure of the kingdom refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects. But in a special way, the Lord Himself is the treasure we seek. Therefore, the demand of the kingdom of heaven is great. We are called upon to give up everything. Jesus said, *"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna."* (Mt 5:29). Again, *"Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."* (Mt 10:37-38). And again, *"...If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to (the) poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."* (Mt 19:21)

Conversely, if the kingdom of heaven is like the merchant seeking and finding the pearl, so it is the kingdom that seeks and finds. It is the kingdom that sacrifices and buys. It is the kingdom that finds the perfect pearl, a fine pearl, and obtains it at all costs. So, in this case, what does the pearl represent? The pearl is something of great price, great value. The pearl, in this instance, has to be you and me! When we realize this, then we realize the price that is paid for us. Then we realize everything that is given up for us.

Do you see what the kingdom gave up to purchase you and me? Our Heavenly Father gave up His only Son. Jesus, on the other hand, gave up, for a while, the glory that was His since eternity. He gave up His throne in heaven, humiliated Himself and took on our flesh. He suffered and died on the cross.

Jesus gave up all to purchase you and me. And how do we respond?

*Our Blessed Mother at Medjugorje said:
"Dear children! I call you to fill your day with
short ardent prayers."
Jesus, Mary I love you, save souls!*

The Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen in Newark, NJ

Since 2003, every fourth Saturday of the month, volunteers from Bukas Loob sa Diyos help serve at the The Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen in Newark, NJ. For most, it is an up close and personal encounter with the faces of poverty and hunger, right here in, virtually, our very own backyard. But for the sisters who run the kitchen, it's a daily, selfless devotion of love, recognizing each person as in the words of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, "*my brother and my sister*".

The Sisters have been at it here since 1981. They serve one main meal a day, everyday of the week, except Thursdays. On average, 80 to 150 individuals partake of the food each time. In addition, they also serve some extra meals for those in their shelters and orphanages, including women and children, as well as the other needy in Newark.

The Mission also acts as a food pantry for the poor families in the area. Thanks to the generous donations from various churches and other organizations, as well as individual donors, help provide cereals, canned goods, and even meat items such as poultry, as well as some fruits and vegetables to as many as 50 families.

But they do not cater solely to the temporal needs of the neighborhood. The Spiritual dimension of Christ's love permeates all that they do. This is especially evident in the various programs they have for the youth and the children in the area. In the summer, they sponsor a summer camp for 50-70 children. Once a year, they have a Christmas party for the kids wherein BLD Newark's Youth Ministry has been privileged to participate in, adding their music and voices to a truly joyous celebration.

For the many BLD members, young and old alike, who have served in the soup kitchen, the feeling is unanimous – a gratitude for the opportunity for action - to truly serve the needy. It's an encounter with Jesus that rewards us infinitely more – with spiritual enrichment - far exceeding the physical nourishment our one day a month at the soup kitchen provides.

If you want to help, donations of funds, groceries and cleaning supplies are most welcome. Checks should be made out to "The Missionaries of Charity" (168 Sussex Ave, Newark, NJ 07103). For other volunteer opportunities, besides through BLD, contact the sisters directly at (973)483-0165.

SAVE THE DATE...

This year's annual BLD Dinner Dance will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 16** at the VFW in Manville, NJ. Mark your calendars and plan to join the whole BLD Community and friends for an evening of good food, dancing and fun.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

The parable continues as the rich man confidently says to himself, "You have so much saved up to last for many years, so take it easy, eat, drink and be merry". He found security in his possessions, and there was no mention of thanking the Giver of the goods. The Lord said to him, "*Fool, this very night your life shall be required of you, who then will get these, piled up wealth of yours?*" It is sobering because when we seriously think about it, no one is able to take anything with him when he dies.

In Matthew 6:19-21, it is said, "***Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart.***" Many of us have heard this parable of the rich man before, but we have placed it in the "nice to know" file in our memory. Perhaps our experience with the Lord is that He is a God of second chances. We believe that we have at least seventy times seven chances. It is true that God loves us so much, but this does not mean that He never gets angry when we violate His commandments.

The Bible is filled with episodes of the Lord's anger when the Israelites disobeyed him. We might say, "That was then. How does this apply to our times?" In St. Thomas Aquinas' famous "*Summa Theologica*", he wrote that God's wrath or anger is expressed when he allows us to enjoy our sin. It does not make sense. Why would God make us love the sin instead of hate it? St. Thomas said that as we experience the thrill and excitement of the sin we begin to have an addiction, a slavery, a bondage to the idolatrous nature of sin that we could not stop even if we want to.

Our punishment is that sin drives us further and further away from the Lord. God's mercy comes when we are caught in that sinful situation, perhaps an illicit or adulterous relationship or selfishness or greed that deprives others or for unethical business practices. His correction may come in the form of sickness, an accident, losing our job, or losing a loved one.

When the rug is pulled from under us, when we realize and accept our powerlessness, our journey back to God begins. When we let go of the controls, surrender our lives, call on the Lord, and beg for his mercy, He will help us because His mercy brought us to this situation. Again, it may not seem logical from the human perspective, but in Isaiah 55:8, the Lord says, "***For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways***".

DIRECTIONS:

1. Take time to read the scriptures daily and spend time in the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Persevere in doing good and store up treasures in heaven, not on earth.
3. Take care to guard against all greed.
4. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 **KOMAPET**

(Kotse Mo Alay Para sa Ekonomiya at Talinto)
Cars for Economic and skills development aide
Donate your car & get a tax deductible receipt (free towing).
Proceeds will be use for breaking the yoke of poverty:
Sagip ka Eskuela & Scholarship Program
YTD Donation: \$705 from 3 generous BLD donors
Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-810-1213 Rubenluz@verizon.net

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.
We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.
Aug 14-ME# 30 • Contacts: Norie/Miriam Abes
973-633-9133 • Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th **Friday** at the Auditorium

WORD

Share your walk, faith, transformation in the Lord with the Community through an article (450 words)
Email to word@bldnewark.com

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:
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"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

Make the Covenant News part of your Covenant Life

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

13 Heath Lane, Hackettstown, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 23, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,818	94,556
Expenses	2,818	114,336
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,000	(19,780)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

RECOLLECTION/CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP LAGDAMEO

Newark's Archdiocesan Center,

171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104

Aug. 7, Sat. • 8:30am-6pm • Reflection (open to DSL, DCS, IDCS, DLC & membership)

Aug. 8, Sun. • 8:30am-5pm • Consultation (open to DSL, DCS, IDCS & DLC only)

RSVP w/ Secretariat on a "1st-come-1st-served" basis

BLD COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 21 • 8:30-6pm • Johnson Park, NJ

Visit www.bldnewark.net for details.

DLC MEETING

Sep. 11 • 1-5PM • Divine Mercy Parish

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

Stewardship Prayer

O Lord, giver of life and the source of our freedom, we are reminded by the psalmist that Yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it".

We know that it is in Your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be.

Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us.

Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.

May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 30

Bulletin Edition

Aug. 06, 2010

Endings and Beginnings

The ocean's waves
They are receding
They are approaching.

Some place in the world
There is a sun that's setting
And the same sun rising

In every second is a moment
Simultaneously ending and beginning
Savor every moment,
Remember the ending
Look forward to beginnings

Life is full of seconds
Life is full of moments
Savor life's seconds, yes, its every moment
Celebrate each new beginning

In every second is a moment
Simultaneously ending and beginning
Savor every moment,
Remember the ending
Look forward to beginnings

Life is full of seconds
Life is full of moments
But therein is God's promise
In the end is a permanent,
Peace-filled beginning.

*This poem was dedicated to BLD's Beloved Departed
Stewardship - It's a way of life!*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

13 Heath Lane, Hackettstown, NJ

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www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COUNSELS Stewardship

WORD: Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1,12,18-19,20-22; Heb 11:1-2,8-19; Lk 12:32-48

THEME: New life in Christ is faithfulness to do His work.

ORDER: *"You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."* (Luke 12:40)

REFLECTION:

There are actually two scenarios in the Gospel reading this 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. One refers to the Second Coming of Jesus, the Christ, and the other, to the call for us to prepare to meet our God. The Gospel starts off with analogy to the culture of the people of Palestine at the time of Jesus when wealth was measured in terms of costly garments which moths can destroy and leave these fine clothes in ruin.

Against this backdrop, Our Lord presents, in comparison, a man who chooses to clothe his soul with the garments of honor, purity and goodness which nothing on earth can harm, or destroy. What Our Lord is saying is that if a man seeks the treasures of heaven, his heart will be fixed on heaven. But if he seeks the treasures of earth, his heart will be tied up with the things of this world, and the day will come when he must bid these earthly treasures goodbye.

In explaining the parable to His disciples, Our Lord speaks of the need for servants to be ever-watchful of the coming of their Master. There is always praise waiting for the servant who is found ready and mindful when his Master arrives. As no one could predict when the call of God would come, the question is how to prepare for that time. Even more importantly, how do we want God to find us when He comes?

Needless to say, as in the parable, we definitely would want to have completed our work when He comes. But our lives are often *Continued on page 2*

Promise of the Week

"Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."

(Luke 12:32)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

filled with so many loose ends, things that remain undone or half-done, things that we put off to some other time or opportunity, and things that we have not even started doing. This is where we frequently fall short. Jesus himself says: ***"I have accomplished the work which Thou gavest me to do"*** (JN 17:4). Thus, no one among us should leave a task undone that we need to finish before night falls, for we know not the hour at which our Master will come.

We also would like God to find us at peace with our fellowmen. Indeed, when He comes, God would want to find us living in harmony with one another. The worst thing that can happen to man is to leave this life and cross over to the next with bitterness, resentment and, unforgiveness in his heart. Paul reminds us in Eph 4:26 that ***"no man should let the sun go down on his anger."***

While it is true that there is no perfect community and that a community such as *Bukas Loob sa Diyos* is made up of individuals of different persuasions and attitudes, the formative years members spend in the community should help us to come to a realization that we are nothing, and that our lives and the world in which we live are temporary, and that our final destination is heaven where only those who have completed their work are allowed entry. We also would like God to find us at peace with ourselves.

The second scenario shows Jesus painting a comparative picture of the wise and the unwise steward. In his time, a steward enjoys immense power. A steward may also be a slave but he has control over the other slaves and manages his master's house as well as his estate. The unwise steward makes two mistakes. He tells himself: "I will do what I like while my master is away," forgetful that the day of reckoning will come. This is not unlike compartmentalized living, in which there is a part where God is present, and another section which is closed off to God; like drawing a line between what is sacred and what is secular. But if we are truly Christian disciples, we will know that there is really no moment in life when the Master is away. Our lives are forever under the scrutiny of Our Lord.

This unwise steward also makes an assumption that could be fatal: "I have plenty of time to put things right before the master comes." To this steward Jesus in John 9:4 says: ***"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night comes when no one can work."*** Indeed, one of the most dangerous words in our vocabulary is 'tomorrow' because it allows us to put off what we can accomplish today. What Jesus is simply saying is that we should not put off anything that we have started, especially putting to right our relationship with others. It is pointless to be in a community when we cannot commune with one another in a spirit of love.

Continued ➤

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING JULY 30, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,177	97,734
Expenses	1,326	115,662
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,851	(17,928)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

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"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

The Gospel passage ends with a warning that knowledge and privilege bring greater accountability to the man who had every chance to do his task well.

"Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom." (Lk 12:32). But at the end of the day, Our Lord will take stock of how well we have performed the tasks He has given us. Do you think then that man with all his excess baggage (pride, envy, gluttony, sloth, lust, avarice, wrath, bitterness, resentments and, unforgiveness) will be allowed into his Kingdom and be given eternal life? Think again.

DIRECTIONS

1. Sell your belongings and give alms.
2. Have faith.
3. Revisit composition of BOT



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 31

Bulletin Edition

August 13, 2010

NEWS

"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Luke 5:4

Hallelujah! The Lord blessed us with a pastoral visit from BLD's Global Spiritual Director, Archbishop Lagdameo, this past August 6, 7 and 8. August 6, a First Friday mass was celebrated at the Divine Mercy Parish, highlighted by the covenanting of 8 new disciples: Cris Escobinas, Francis (Cookie) Montemayor, Romy Castillo, Lynn Castillo, Willie Reyes, Melinda Reyes, Ferdie Umahon, Aileen Umahon. the anointing of our incoming ME Class Shepherds, N/IRaagas, and the blessing of LSS #35 team: Overall Coordinators C/F Masisado; Piety- O.Paypon, N Nacion; Action- R/C Arribe JBustos, M Martinez and their Shepherd Coordinators- P/P Ibarrola, L/D Bonifacio, M/A Mangalonzo

The next two days, the Archbishop conducted a Recollection and Consultation, held at the Newark Archdiocesan Center. Altogether there were about 300 or so members from various BLD districts and DIPs – Long Island, Allentown, North Carolina, the Amazing Grace Ministry, Trenton, Camden, Rockland, Newark, Albany and Washington DC.

The Recollection touched on the call to Discipleship and how we are all, without exception, called to evangelize. He spoke of the unity of the role of the laity and the clergy in the Church's mission and vision; and the four aspects of laity life – community of families, the call to Christian presence, the call to service and evangelization, and the call to social transformation. He emphasized that lay spirituality depends on one's state in life; in the soil of life situations, we are called to plant the seeds of holiness.

The Archbishop spoke of "servant leadership" by describing the characteristics of a servant leader. A servant leader serves and does not compel; he exemplifies love and caring; sees servanthood as the end, not a means to an end. He exemplifies humility. The servant has "dirty shoulders" as he allows others to stand tall on his shoulders. He mirrors God.

The other aspects of servant leadership were also discussed – stewardship, being a shepherd and an overseer. How a good steward is, thankful to God for every blessing, is responsible, accountable, and shares God's gifts out of love. Impressive was the Archbishop as a speaker – homespun humor added to the impact of his very meaningful spiritual message, as he exhorted everyone to do, not just what's easy, but also that which is hard; to heed the Lord's word in calling us to cast our nets into deep water, with the promise that there will be a catch.

COUNSELS

Proclaim with Joy, the Greatness of God

WORD: Rv.11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps. 45:10, 11,12, 16; 1 Cor.15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

THEME: New Life in Christ is being one with Mary in her holiness and service.

ORDER: Be like Mary by proclaiming the greatness of the Lord and rejoicing in God our savior. (Luke 1:46-47)

COMMUNITARIAN VALUE: Service

REFLECTION: The first reading says about a great sign appearing in the sky, it was a woman clothed with the sun, with a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was with a child, in pain as she labored to give birth.

Then another sign appeared, it was a huge dragon with seven heads and ten horns. The beast was so powerful it swept a third of the stars in the sky to destroy the earth. As the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth to devour her child, she gave birth to a male child, destined to rule all the nations. The woman and child was saved and salvation came through the power of God.

As we all know, the woman is the Blessed Mother, the Child is Jesus Christ and God is the Father. This passage from the Book of Revelation is really about the story of mankind. The woman represents the people of God, that's us. She is in distress because of our first parents' sin. The child, Jesus represents the church, persecuted by the dragon, the devil.

Who is Mary? What is her character? The Blessed Mother has so many exemplary qualities, too many to mention. Scripture ascribes to her the greatest personal sanctity. She was conceived without original sin and shows the greatest humility and heroic patience under the most trying circumstances. Exempted from sin, Mary was impeccable not by her nature but by a special Divine privilege.

Confining ourselves to the reading this Sunday, in Mary's Magnificat, her reply to her cousin Elizabeth, we learn of some of her qualities

continued on next page

Counsels continued

Mary is helpful. Despite the fact that she was also pregnant, without regard for her own inconveniences, she went in haste to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, upon learning that she was six months pregnant. She regarded Elizabeth more than herself, looking out not for her interest but of others. She stayed there till Elizabeth gave birth.

Mary radiates joy. Upon entering her cousin's house and just hearing Mary's greeting, the infant leaped for Joy. Sometimes, I wonder why in the story of salvation, God chose to come into this world through a human being. He could have easily chosen another way. One reason that comes to my mind is God wants to pay tribute to a particular person, to put this person on the highest pedestal, giving her the honor and privilege only given to one among all human beings who have or will ever exist. What an overflowing joy this must be- *chosen* to be the mother of God.

Mary is a lowly servant, full of humility despite her unique privileges. She perfectly knew who she was and who God is. She knew that without Him she can do nothing. She regarded all her qualities as a gift from above. Because of her lowliness, God looked with favor on her, that all generation will call her blessed.

How do we relate some of Mary's qualities as found in her Magnificat in building our community? Are we helpful? Do we pitch in for our community activities in spite of our busyness? When discerned for a special task, to tend a flock, do we accept or refuse because of perceived inconveniences if we say "Yes?"

Mary's joyfulness. Do we smile a lot? In the company of other people, do they feel at ease, happy comforted, consoled by our presence?

Mary is blessed, a very holy person. We can emulate her and try to be as holy as her. We should eliminate our serious mistakes and control the minor ones; be prayerful and advance in virtues. Are we good friends? Do we live simple lives? Do we accept suffering? How far has our spiritual life matured? Are we continuing to learn how to love?

Now, a little note about the Assumption, Mary's feast, which we celebrate this Sunday. This feast celebrates the happy departure of Mary from her earthly life, her body taken into heaven. It is a principal feast of the Blessed Virgin, a holy day of obligation.

There are doubts about our Lady's body being taken up to heaven, especially those outside the Catholic faith. Regarding the place, year and manner of Our lady's death, nothing is certain. Some scholars say she died in Jerusalem, others contend she passed away in Ephesus.

Of the twenty mysteries of the Holy Rosary, eighteen are mentioned in the Bible. Two are not - these are the Assumption of our Lady and her Coronation as Queen of Heaven.

Do we Catholics believe that the Body of the Blessed Mother Mary went up to Heaven despite not being mentioned in the Bible?

In 1950 Pope Pius XI declared that the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was a Dogma of the Catholic faith. Likewise, the second Vatican council taught that the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, was taken up body and soul into the heavenly glory when her earthly life was over. For us Catholics, this is enough. Like Mary, without questioning, we believe and accept these pronouncements to be true and infallible.

By being Mary-like, we become God-like and by being God-like, we proclaim the greatness of God.

Directions: 1) Say "Yes" to God's call.

2) Bring the joy and gladness of the Lord to all.

Ministry Announcements

MISSION - Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Aug 28-Solo Parents □ Contacts: Bobby/Dolly Fernandez
732.485.4755 □ doloroberto@yahoo.com □ Nick/Lita Centeno

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 □ Liebenzell Retreat Missions

13 Heath Lane, Hackettstown, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

Lord's Provision

Week Ending Aug.6, 2010

	Actual YTD	
Collections	4,134	101,868
Expenses	9,547	125,208
Surplus/(Deficit)	(5,413)	(23,340)

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

Save The Date

BLD COMMUNITY DAY

Aug. 21 □ 8:30-6pm □ Johnson Park, NJ

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Sep. 11 □ 1-5PM □ Divine Mercy Parish

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 □ Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

BLD DINNER DANCE

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Wellness Program Volunteers

Volunteers needed: Nurses for Blood Pressure/Sugar screening and Doctors (General Practice)

Contact: Ruben/Luz Amarante 908-265-1257

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God's Promise for the Week

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45)



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 32

Bulletin Edition

August 20, 2010

NEWS

A COLLABORATION OF GOD'S YOUTH

"You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 Jn 4:4).

On the weekend of August 13-15, 2010, BLD youths from the districts of Toronto (Canada), Long Island, St. Catharine (Canada), Rockland, and Newark all met for the biennial Youth Inter-district Conference. This year, it was sponsored by BLD Long Island and was held at St. Kilian Roman Catholic Church in Farmingdale, NY. This event, which happens every two years, was a time for youth members to reunite from the previous YIDC, and make some new friends through God's love. The Youth went through three modules on prayer, the sacraments, the healing sacrament of reconciliation, and lastly a discussion on the theology of the body, covering the four levels of love and the different relationships we all have. Each module was discussed by Fr. Al Winshman, who helped convey God's message to today's Youth. Then the Youth were broken up into groups to further discuss the topics, presented in ways that today's young followers could relate to. The Youth participated in praise and worship, ice breakers, and district skit presentations. Through these activities and regardless of one's district, they were able to come together as one ministry with one common goal. That is **'to love God'**.



COUNSELS

STRIVE TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE

WORD: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1-2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

THEME: New life in Christ is accepting God's discipline.

ORDER: *"Strive to enter through the narrow gate."* (Lk 13:24)

REFLECTION:

One of the major themes of this Sunday's first reading and Gospel is summed up in the Psalm refrain- *"Go out to all the world and tell the good news,"* (Mk 16:15) the good news that the love of God knows no limits and is offered to everyone. Isaiah not only foretells in glowing terms a future time when non-Jews will come to Jerusalem to worship in the Jewish temple but he also prophesies that among those Gentiles, God will choose some to be *"priests and Levites."* Both Isaiah and Luke stretch our vision to an open door policy of God's plan where exclusivism has no place. This vision is just as true now as it was during the Biblical times. It invites its hearers to rethink their own narrow understanding of how and to whom salvation is offered.

GOD'S LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE! Yet, *"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"* (Lk 13: 23) He does not answer the question about the number because God does not have a quota. Jesus instead uses two images to answer the question: the narrow gate and the locked door. The narrow gate points to the necessity of faith for admittance. His kingdom is open and He wants all to be saved. The locked door refers to tardiness and indifference in making the response. He does not force anybody to enter but He seeks our generous response and cooperation which may demand serious effort at times.

continued on next page

Promise of the Week

"All discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it."

(Heb 12:11)

COUNSELS (from page 1)

The second reading says, "My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges." Endure your trials as discipline." (Heb12: 5b-7a) It is never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined more so if this comes from a brethren in community. It is easy to feel hurt, humiliated, even rejected because we see the discipline coming from an earthly source. Will it still be so hurtful if we realize that it is the Father who is disciplining us through our brethren? God's discipline is a sign that He is our Father and we are His children whom He loves deeply. There is no discipline of God which does not take its source in love and is not aimed at something good. No life can have any value apart from discipline. Do we accept and handle our trials and difficulties with anger and rebellion, self-pity and resignation or do we accept them with full understanding and gratitude as Jesus modeled for us on the Cross? Are we the same person in community and outside of community? Things may not always be what they seem. What brings pain today, if taken gracefully will produce an upright spirit, strengthened by adversity that may later bring joy and "bring forth the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it." (Heb 12:11)

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." (Lk 13:24) The Christian life does take effort. It means earnestly desiring to know Jesus and diligently striving to follow Him whatever the cost. It means acknowledging our sins, accepting and giving forgiveness, turning away from sin and trusting in God to save us. It means leading a life of self-giving and detachment, going the extra mile, turning the other cheek, giving our own cloak. All of us in the BLD community realize the great gift that have been given us, the renewal and rejuvenation of our faith and love for God through our close encounter with Him. Are we then really home safe? Are we assured of our heavenly home after we have gone through our discipleship formation program, became covenanted, and served in many of our numerous activities? As disciples of Christ, our responsibilities do not just start on Friday night and end on Sunday night. Just saying, "We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets." (Lk 13: 26) is not sufficient. We cannot be under the illusion that maintaining a loose relationship or association with Jesus is enough to say we are His followers. Community life presents new challenges in living our faith. What is needed is faith with works.

"So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees... that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed." (Heb 12: 12) So let us be examples to one another in our behavior and attitude, in our speech, in our mission works of love and compassion that we may more effectively spread the love of God to those who are weak, poor and needy in our midst. Let us lean and support one another, defer and listen to each other with love. Then, the narrow path that leads to heaven becomes a broad way for those who love and live the Way of Christ.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Endure your trials as discipline.
2. Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

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Every 4th Sat. of the month

Aug 28-Solo Parents • Contacts: Bobby/Dolly

Fernandez 732.485.4755 • 732.742.1253

doloroberto@yahoo.com • Nick/Lita Centeno

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING AUG. 13, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,646.29	106,514.29
Expenses	1,428.68	126,636.68
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,217.61	(20,122.39)

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Thank you for your continued support!

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3. Make straight paths for your feet.
4. Bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the Lord.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 33

Bulletin Edition

August 27, 2010

Community Day - 18th Anniversary Celebration

Many were in attendance for our 18th annual BLD Newark Community Day at Johnson's Park in Piscataway, NJ this past Saturday, August 21, 2010. We could not have prayed for a more beautiful sunshine-filled day of fun and laughter with our family and friends.

Initial preparations were done by very early morning birds; the day started off with Morning Prayer, after which, food tent and grilling stations were set up. By 11:30 AM, Eucharistic Celebration had started, officiated by Monsignor Nunez, con-celebrated by Deacon Serge. Abundant amounts of BBQ foods: hotdog, hamburger, pork and chicken barbecue; along with Filipino-style spaghetti, pork and chicken adobo, and palabok, were just some of the dishes served for lunch. We also had some halo-halo for dessert to help cool us off.

Over 100 door prize winners went home extra happy, including the winner of the grand prize. Congratulations!!! Teams partook in several events; but only one triumphed - the Green team! Hooray!

In the true sense of stewardship many of our community day volunteers put in tireless effort and time to make sure - we all enjoyed the games played; were entertained by the presentations: dancing, singing by Mark 10 & John VI, Youth. Singles, Solo Parents, Adults & Golden Years ministries. Also, who could forget the arnis demonstration put on by BLD Allentown. Thank you all!

Much gratitude and appreciation to all the Committee coordinators and members, FE#16, ME classes, Singles, Praise, Technical and many other Volunteers for a job well done.

Praise and Thanks to our Father God for providing us an over-abundance of resources - we are so blessed by the generosity of our brothers and sisters - and for allowing us to experience fellowship and harmony as a united family of the Holy Trinity.

Tuesday, September 7, 2010 @ 7pm
Fr. Fernando Suarez Healing Mass
St. Valentine's Church
125 North Spring Street, Bloomfield, NJ

COUNSELS

Be Humble of Heart

WORD:	Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29/ Ps 68:4-5,6-7,10-11/ Heb 12:18-19,22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14
THEME:	New life in Christ is conducting our affairs with humility
ORDER:	" <i>Conduct your affairs with humility.</i> " (Sir 3:17)

REFLECTION:

In heaven there is no Saint who was not humble. (I am paraphrasing Father Caetano from his book 'Humility of Heart'. Fr. Caetano also wrote that "pride is the first and the greatest of all (spiritual vices) which is able to transform an angel into a demon!" And the Bible tells us that God banished angels from Heaven because of their pride. It just shows us that no one can enter heaven without being humble.

Humility may be called the starting gate in our race to heaven. It is the first of the many lessons set before us by the Lord in His school of sanctity called Life. It is a difficult lesson, and one which our fallen nature seeks to avoid at all cost or to put off indefinitely, but for anyone who wants to graduate to Eternal Life, it is a pre-requisite.

Jesus Christ calls all of us to Himself to learn, not to work miracles nor to astonish the world with great learning or enterprises, but to be humble of heart. **"...learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." (Mt 11:29)** He has not called everyone to be doctors, teachers or priests, nor has He bestowed on all the gift to restore sight to the blind, to raise the dead or cast out evil spirits, but to all He has said: **"Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart."** Humility contains all things because in this virtue is Truth; and God is Truth. *(continued on page 2)*

- Direction:
1. Do not choose the places of honor.
 2. Make a home for the poor.
 3. Provide for the needy.
 4. Lead forth those in bondage to prosperity.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

Our Lord Jesus reminds us all His disciples and followers that we must learn this lesson well by heart, and into our very nature and being; because Humility is the very foundation on which every other virtue is formed and built up. It is the soil in the garden of the soul, "the good ground" on which the Divine Sower goes forth to sow His seed. *Bukas ang loob sa Diyos.*

Humility is, in a very special way, the basis of charity. "The dwelling place of charity is humility", says St Augustine. We cannot take an interest in other people and attend to their needs, if we cannot forget about our own. Many sins against charity have been caused by vanity, pride, selfishness and the inordinate desire to receive attention and praise. "*Do not recline at table in the place of honor ...but rather when you are invited, go and take the lowest place*". Luke 14:8a,10a.

Humility is the virtue that helps us accept the truth about ourselves. The truth that we are human beings who need help and need love. No one has the right to look down on others. Each one of us is God's favorite one. Each of us has special gifts and talents from God for His very own special purpose.

To be humble is to be patient with one another, giving each other time to make mistakes and to learn from them; to be humble is to forgive each other, reserving judgment for God alone; to be humble is to pray for one another, lifting each other up if we fall. "*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted*" (Lk 14:11)

Before BLD, I was haughty, arrogant, ill-tempered and impatient. But God through circumstances both difficult and painful, has brought me to my knees and humbled me. That was the only way he could get my attention, to wake me up and open my eyes to the evil of my ways. In my conceit and hardness of heart, I fell from my perch, down into the mud of my sinfulness. That was the beginning of my walk with the Lord, as he led me from the bottom of the pit into a new sonship with the Father. Without humility, there is no peace, without humility there is only darkness. Light came into this world because of Mary's humility. Because of Jesus' humility we can look to a glorious feast with our Heavenly Father.

Mama Mary may we become like your son, meek and humble of heart, Amen.

Promise: "*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.*" (Lk 14:11)

Five-Second Reflection: We do things for God when we do things for each other.

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

8/28 CDFP Overview/Intro to the Word • SPE 12

9/10 Basic Bible Study • **Amazing Grace**

9/11 Shepherds Training (Refresher)

"Keep your minds fixed on things of heaven, not on things here on earth... Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory!" Col 3:2-4

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING AUG. 20, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,956	109,470
Expenses	7,503*	134,140
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,547)	(24,670)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

* amount represents the week's expense plus expenses related to Inter-District Conference with Arch. Lagdameo (pending collections from other Districts).

SAVE THE DATE

DLC MEETING

Sep. 11 • 1-5PM • Divine Mercy Parish

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sep. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

Our Blessed Mother at Medjugorje said:

"Dear children! I call you to fill your day with short ardent prayers." Jesus, Mary, I love you, save souls!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

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Share your BLD Life Story with the Lord in our 450-word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 34

Bulletin Edition

Sept. 3, 2010

FR. PAUL SPEAKS

I first want to thank all of you for your prayers and encouragement during my recent relatively minor leg problem. The “problem” is minor, but it causes one to become more dependent on the good graces of others. This is also an opportunity to become more humble (and confrontational to my independent streak), as one becomes dependent on the ministrations of others. It is a tangible reminder that we are always dependent upon the often forgotten need we have of the constant activity of God, not only to keep us in existence, but more importantly to live the new life of sanctifying grace that gives us a participation in the very life of God himself. We need him naturally and supernaturally.

Sickness in any form can be an opportunity for self pity OR a wake up call to slow down and perhaps become more aware of the invisible realities of life that we so often miss as we race through our day by day activities. It can be a call to become more intuitive and contemplative. Most of you reading this have been “encountered” in some fashion. Many of you have experienced the action of the Holy Spirit in the LSS weekend. Is it not true that often the high we experienced on the weekend seems to evaporate as time goes on? The gift of the weekend, I often remind people, is not the high, but the deeper infusion of the presence and experience of God even if only in a vague and often intangible manner. Hopefully there is also a deeper personal connection between God and the person. There is a realization that the teachings of the Church and the Word of God can be divine nourishment.

What sickness can accomplish can also be realized daily as we slow down and pray, or better, as we slow down and experience the action of God tenderly and lovingly ministering to our basic spiritual and physical needs. Doing this consistently can be a wake up call that there may be basic contradictions, even if minor, between the way we live and the awareness that may have been ours on those powerful weekends. This awareness is a gift and a challenge to go to the Lord to help us become more consistent. You have heard me speak about prayer many, many times, *Continued on page 3*

COUNSELS Discipleship

WORD: Wis 9:13-18; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

THEME: We have the heart and character of Christ when we renounce all our possessions and follow Him.

ORDER: ***“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27)***

REFLECTION:

To renounce means to refuse to follow, obey or recognize any further. Our old sinful nature used to follow the allures of the world. But now, as followers of Christ, we have been liberated by Jesus from our enslavement to selfishness, relativised the idols of money and power (PCP II). As His disciples, we should not be double minded (Jm1:8) but make Jesus the center of our lives. We should love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength; before any other love and relationship as we read in the Gospel. For St. John says: ***“Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of the God remains forever.”*** (1 Jn 2:15-17)

The first reading says: ***“For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns,”*** (Wis 9:14-15). Our carnal minds are so active, full of irrelevant concerns as we fill our time with useless pursuits like spending hours reading or listening to the news, or watching television. Then we are burdened by the lives of others, as we listen to gossips and soap operas. We want to be knowledgeable *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“...the gracious care of the Lord our God (is) ours; prosper the work of our hands.” (Ps 90:17)

We Are Temples Of God

The Indwelling of the Blessed Trinity in Our Souls. Looking for God Within Us.

We frequently see in the Gospel the friendship the Apostles had with our Lord: they spend time chatting with Him, asking Him about things they don't understand. The Gospel of John (Jn 14:6-14) mentions one of those incidents: it's a topic which must have come up often, especially towards the end of our Lord's life.

Our Lord said to them: ***“He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him”*** (Jn 14:21). In Jesus' day it was commonly held among the Jews that when the Messiah arrived he would reveal himself to everybody as King and Savior (The Navarre Bible, St John). The Apostles thought that our Lord's words referred to them, to those who were close to him, those who loved him. Judas Thaddaeus understood what our Lord was saying, and he asked, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”

In the Old Testament, God revealed himself on different occasions and in different ways, and he promised that he would dwell in the midst of his people (Ex 29:45; Ez 37:26-27). But now our Lord is referring to a very different kind of presence: His presence in the people who love Him, in each person who is in a state of grace. ***“If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”*** (Jn 14:23). This is the presence of the Blessed Trinity in the soul which has been reborn through grace. This is a fundamental teaching of the Christian life frequently repeated by St Paul: ***“For we are the temple of the living God.”*** (2 Cor 6:16) he says to the first Christians of Corinth.

Quoting this passage, St John of the Cross comments: *“What more desirest thou, O soul and what more seekest thou without thyself since within thyself thou host thy riches, thy delights, thy satisfaction... thy Beloved, Whom thy soul desires and seeks? Rejoice thou and be glad in thy inward recollection with Him, since thou host Him so near.”* (St John of the Cross, The Spiritual Canticle 1, 8).

We should learn to become better and better friends of God who is dwelling within us. Through this divine presence, our soul becomes a miniature heaven. Reflection on that thought can help us enormously. At Baptism the three Persons of the Most Blessed Trinity

Continued next column

came into our soul; they want to be closer to us throughout our lives than the closest of friends. This presence — which is quite unique — is lost only through mortal sin. But we Christians should not be content with simply not losing God's presence within us: we should recall His presence within us in the midst of our daily activity, when we're going from place to place, to thank Him, to ask Him for help, to atone for the sins we commit against Him each day.

At times we think that God is far away, whereas in fact He is very close to us. He is more interested in what we're doing than the best of friends. Reflecting on this ineffable closeness of God, St Augustine exclaimed: *“Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you. For behold you were within me, and I outside; and I sought you outside ... You were with me, but I was not with you. I was kept from you by those things, yet had they not been in you, they would not have been at all. You called and cried to me and broke open my deafness. You sent forth your beams and shone, and chased away my blindness.”* (St Augustine, Confessions, 10, 27-38).

But to talk to God, really present in our soul in grace, we need to control our senses, as they tend to scatter and become attached to all sorts of things. We need to be aware that we are temples of God and to behave accordingly. We need to surround with love, with resounding silence, that intimate the presence of the Blessed Trinity in our soul.

With permission from Scepter UK. Short excerpt from **IN CONVERSATION WITH GOD** by Francis Fernandez



PRAYER TO OVERCOME EVIL

PASSIONS AND TO BECOME A SAINT

Dear Jesus, in the Sacrament of the Altar, be forever thanked and praised.

Love, worthy of all celestial and terrestrial love!

Who, out of infinite love for me, ungrateful sinner, didst assume our human nature, didst shed Thy most Precious Blood in the cruel scourging, and didst expire on a shameful Cross for our eternal welfare!

Now illumined with lively faith, with the outpouring of my whole soul and the fervor of my heart, I humbly beseech Thee, through the infinite merits of Thy painful sufferings, give me strength and courage to destroy every evil passion which sways my heart, to bless Thee by the exact fulfillment of my duties, supremely to hate all sin, and thus to become a Saint.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN ME

“Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God.” (1 Corinthians 2:11-12)

For days my mind has been struggling as I search within myself to find God's Spirit within me and its true meaning in my life. Taking a second look at these two verses from St. Paul's letter and coming towards the end, three words catch my heart: God, Human, and Spirit.

Throughout God's relationship with us, He has shown us two lessons to learn and remember: the need for humble service and for lives faithful to His commandments from beginning to end. By simply adopting these two values, all the fruits blossom endlessly. Thus, our humanity seeks to be united to the goodness of God. For one to truly live his life, one must seek to know Christ, and strive to become like Christ. Putting on a cassock, achieving extensive theological education, and spending long hours in church do not guarantee salvation. It is in praying with a fervent and expectant heart for His grace and mercy, receiving the Body of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and striving to faithfully **live** the gospel daily, that we prepare ourselves to be vessels of God's work, opening ourselves to be a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Two days ago, a friend sent me a link to a documentary about the "Stigmata." The person was asked, what is it that God finds to be the greatest sins; and the subject quickly said, "arrogance and lying," a clear reminder of the two eternal lessons to learn and remember. As God warns everyone in Ezekiel 13:9a:

“But I will stretch out my hand against the prophets who have false visions and who foretell lies.”

So then I ask, under what condition can one claim that the Spirit of God is in them? By logic, God's vessel should be pure and remain pure to be God's resting place. It always goes back to humility and truthfulness, making them pillars of our faith and helping each of us to grow in purity and holiness.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (1 Corinthians 1:25)

Do not misunderstand. God is neither foolish nor has He any weaknesses. All that is just applicable to us humans. What remains for us is to open our hearts to God's indwelling Spirit, living lives of humility, service, faithfulness, and truth.

COUNSELS (from page 1)

about so many things to feel important and accepted when conversing with others. We are tempted to desire to luxury, unrestrained comfort, ambition, and to be secure in material wealth, power, prestige, and titles which further add to our concerns. But we should really think more of things above and not of earthly things.

Being disciples of Jesus Christ requires us to have His heart and character. We can only have the heart and character of Jesus if we are conformed to Jesus, placing our full trust in Him. We have to heed His command: to repent for all our sins, reform our lives and renounce our possessions. We need also to cleanse our hearts, the part of us that are earthly, immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and the greed that is idolatry. We should put away anger, fury, malice, slander, banish obscene language from our mouths and put on the new self, which is being renewed, in the image of Jesus. (Col 3:5, 8, 10) Then we should allow Jesus to take control of our lives and let Him dwell in our hearts (Eph 3:17); allowing Him to form His character in us. We will then have His strength to avoid temptations, His peace amidst our trials, suffering, challenges; His unwavering will to do the will of the Father. We will have His grace to do away with all harshness and lack of amiability. With Jesus, we can sympathize with all classes, with the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, the happy and the sad.

We should then consider the cost of being true disciples of Christ, of carrying the cross daily, of having His heart and character so we can renounce our sinful way of life and our possessions. If we are indeed earnest and persevering in following Jesus, we can have the Promise of the Week: *“...the gracious care of the Lord our God (is) ours; prosper the work of our hands.”* (Ps 90:17)

DIRECTIONS

1. Nourish your life spiritually through daily prayers, meditation on His word daily, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and receiving Him in the Eucharist regularly; and visitation to the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Intensify our evangelization and mission work to reach out to those who need God – the poor, the needy, the abandoned, and the outcast

FR. PAUL SPEAKS (from page 1)

but I come to you now as one experiencing a new, and admittedly uninvited opportunity, to remind you and myself again to immerse yourselves in your daily prayer routine. There will be gradual new consistency between theory and practice as the Holy Spirit little by little unites the hidden dimensions of our supernatural life and the practical realities of every daily living.

BLD Community Covenant

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of Servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer.
3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

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TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

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"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Life in the Spirit Seminar #35

Oct. 1-3 • Divine Mercy Auditorium, Rahway, NJ

John 6 Crossing 11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

9/10 Basic Bible Study • **Amazing Grace**

9/11 Shepherds Training (Refresher)

9/17 Christian Maturity Program • **Singles**

9/18 Basic Bible Seminar • **LSS 33 & 34**

Christian Maturity Program • **LSS 31 & 32**

Post Covenantal Teaching • **Covenanted**

Disciples

9/24 Intercessory Formation • **Intercessory Class**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Sept. 10 starting @ 10:30pm @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Sept. 11 • Solo Parents • Contact: SoloParents@bldnewark.com

Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING AUG. 27, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	8,640	118,110
Expenses	(239)	133,901
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,879	(15,791)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

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Sept. 11 • 1-5PM • Divine Mercy Parish

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Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

Proceeds will help further the BLD

Newark's Mission & Vision.

URGENT APPEAL

"For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another." Romans 12:4-5

- The community is requested to assist in soliciting *hole sponsorships* @ \$100
- Golfers are urged to register by TONIGHT. Please submit names to Reggie/Fil Malabanan.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

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COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 35

Bulletin Edition

September 10, 2010

NEWS

The Anthropic Principle – an argument for the existence of God?

One day, a scientist challenged God, claiming that he now knew how to create life. So God asked him to prove it. The scientist then started by saying, “First, you gather up some dirt, shape it, and then breathe...”

“No, no, no” God interrupted. “How about first, you create your own dirt?”

Through the centuries, as science has successively explained how things work, man has been tempted to think that he can discover everything. At times, he may also be tempted to think that God does not exist.

Fundamentally, however, an argument can be made that the things we have been discovering, especially in this day and age, were always there in the first place, waiting to be discovered and transformed. And that we may discover HOW things work... but the question as to WHY, remains solely in the realm of God.

In 1973, on the occasion of the 500th birthday of Nicolaus Copernicus, Brandon Carter, an Australian theoretical physicist from Cambridge University first used the term “the Anthropic Principle”. Whereas the great 15th and 16th century astronomer proved that the earth was not the center of the universe, and by correlation, man too is not its center, the Anthropic Principle proposed (paraphrased): that all the exact constants in the universe are not by accident; that they are so (seemingly) for the purpose of creating life; a life that we are able to observe because things have developed just as they have, and if things were not so, if a constant was awry, we would not even be here to ponder upon it.

Whereas some in science have proposed that things have come about by evolutionary accident, the Anthropic Principle then spawned a renewed thinking, among scientists and non-scientists alike about the “Intelligent Being” behind it all.

But doesn't LIFE itself, more than the existence of rocks and hills and sea and air and planets already prove that God is indeed everywhere?

COUNSELS

TITLE: Forgiving Unconditionally
READINGS: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tim 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10
ORDER: “Rejoice for what has been lost is now found.” (Luke 15:32)
THEME: We have the heart and character of Christ when we forgive unconditionally
REFLECTION:

This Sunday's Gospel is made up of three parables all centered on the message of forgiveness. The first is the Parable of the Lost Sheep. When this one sheep gets lost, the shepherd goes out of his way to look for him and upon finding him, instead of scolding the wayward sheep or maybe calling him a “black sheep”, the shepherd instead celebrates his being found. In the parable of the lost coin, the woman carefully searches for her one lost coin and when she finds it, instead of putting it aside, she rejoices. But the best known and most inspiring of the three parables is that of the Prodigal Son.

We all can clearly remember and relate to the prodigal son who asked for his inheritance then left his father, squandered his money away, went broke and hungry and returns to his father to ask for forgiveness. The greatest lesson of the parable is the forgiving heart of the father who even from a distance, not knowing if maybe his wayward son was coming back just to ask for more money, was filled with compassion and even welcomed the son home with a celebration. His forgiving did not end there. He also forgave his other arrogant and self-righteous son who resented the celebration given to his wayward brother.

Every day of our life the Lord calls us to love Him and our neighbor -- the very basic commandment of our faith as summed up by Jesus from the 10 commandments. Since some of our neighbors maybe a great challenge to love, we then have to take the first step of loving and him. Giving forgiveness is much easier when we have the humility of heart just as we are called

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.” (Ex 32:13)

“Training” for God

“Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.” (1 COR 9:26-27)

St Paul’s first letter to the church of Corinth, established about the year 51, provides a fuller insight into the life of the early Christian community. Through it we can glimpse both the strengths and the weaknesses of men and women who had accepted the good news of Christ and were now trying to realize in their lives the implications of their baptism.

Being a Christian and following Christ is more than just an instantaneous conversion, it is a daily process whereby I grow to be more and more like Him. In life, I tend to establish my own boundaries with God. But with God, there really are no boundaries, only greatness and nothing is out of reach when I put my heart into it.

To be a Champion for Him, God refers to the race and gives a specific training recipe for victory – throughout Scriptures.

- First, one must go into strict training in preparation for the race

My journey in life is not that easy. I must remain focused on Christ, face many difficult challenges, and be steadfast in my faith.

- Second, turn all of your strength and energy toward winning the race

Not that I have already gained perfection, I must take courage to struggle and take hold of that for which Jesus suffered for me.

- Third, like an athlete keep your physical muscles strong

I must exercise my muscles of faith by developing a training regimen for Christ to be an example to others, making time each day to read Scriptures and praising him through prayers.

- Finally, one must fight the good fight now and to the end, not taking shortcuts during training and shortcuts for the race

I must compete in the race, not running aimlessly but doing it for the crown that will last forever – the crown of great value in the kingdom of heaven! My life must be inspired by Jesus, who himself endured the cross before receiving the glory of his triumph. I should regard my own sufferings as the affectionate correction of the Lord, who loves me as a father loves his children.

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.” (2 Tim 4:7-8)

Bread of Sincerity & Truth

“Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Cor. 5:6-8)

St. Paul chastised the people of Corinth for having taken liberty with immorality. Word reached him (through “Chloe’s people”) as to how the Corinthians were even boastful of such activities and frivolities. St. Paul cited a decadent relation of a man cohabitating with his stepmother and the need of not mixing the holy with the unholy people. And since it is close to Passover, he likened the evil that man had committed to that of “old yeast” permeating the dough of goodness (of man) that may taint the whole bread. So he urges the many to use new yeast, a new purified ingredient that will clean the hearts of man and thus be “fresh dough” in the life of facing the holy event. “Out with the old, in with new”, so the saying goes. We are to get rid of our old self and habits and replace it with a newly sourced life, rich in freshness and yielding to the call of holiness.

When we entered this (BLD) community, didn’t we leave our old selves behind and embrace this new meaningful life? Didn’t we promise to amend our ways and follow Him? Didn’t we feel good stepping out of darkness and frolic in the light? Didn’t we feel ministered to by our weekly worships, sharing the Word, fellowshiping with true Christian brothers and sisters, attending teachings and class reunions, participating in mission work, sponsoring/serving in encounters, recollections and seminars? Yes, we did and we still do. For we find so much sincere joy living in the graces of God.

I remember when I joined BLD through one of its ministries. Just like everyone else, I did not think it was for me. Though there was no reluctance on my part, I wasn’t fully convinced that I would be transformed. But I kept an open mind. At first I didn’t feel any different. But as days passed, I felt the Holy Spirit slowly and steadily gaining on and growing in me. I don’t exactly know when “it” happened but it did. Now my old self is just a shadow in the background. I have become the new person that God wants me to be. I am now a *new bread of sincerity and truth* in the Body of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We are all in need of Christ

Today, we hear Paul dealing with the basic concept of Christian Theology which is plainly stated for all to read and understand that **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”**

Paul even admits that before he met Christ and had his sins forgiven, he was the chief of sinners. This is the motif of today’s text. This is the main thing that Paul is trying to drum into our minds. We might say that this point has been well made over the centuries and that most Christians believe that this should be our main theological truth.

These first fourteen verses of I Timothy, underscore the fact that before Paul experienced a new spiritual life through Christ, he had been the chief of sinners; but, when he came to understand the simple process of salvation, forgiveness and new life, he became a forgiven and “former sinner.” As a result of his salvation, enthusiasm and genuine faith, Paul who had been the chief of sinners became the leader of the rapidly expanding network of local churches.

Our Gospel reading for this week records the beautiful analogy that explains God’s great concern for Jesus’ lost sheep by saying, *“and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’”* (Luke 15:6)

The Good News today is that Christ still loves us as much as the Shepherd loves his sheep and wants to find every one of us. It is said that shepherds have a bond of love for his sheep but the sheep have a tendency to wander away looking for greener grass, of a new adventure. That’s how we operate. We get far out away from the good shepherd, perhaps perilously close to falling off of the side of a mountain.

As we look back upon our lives we can see how we ran from Christ, and yet He never deserted us. We have all been called to this community because of our sinfulness. No one is perfect except Christ. That is why as kindred souls on a journey, we must pray and encourage each other, that, like St. Paul we may live in the abundant grace of our Lord. Admitting that we are sinners and in need of change is a first step towards salvation. Dying to ourselves and letting Christ lead us in our lives will help all of us in building up community and each other.

Counsel (from page 1)

by Christ in Mt. 11:29 to “learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart.” It is also made much easier when we give up our greatest possession and the source of great sin - our pride! Our model in humility is Jesus, no less.

Along with the 10 disciples Jesus washed the feet of Judas Iscariot whom he knew would later on betray him, and of Simon Peter whom he knew would later on deny him three times. Jesus had forgiven the two apostles even before they committed their sins, even before the two had shown remorse and repentance for their sins. The Lord does not conveniently pick or choose who He wants to forgive. He forgives all and he forgives always. We are called to do the same - to forgive always. But how often should we be forgiving? The same question was asked by Peter of the Lord in Matthew 18:21-22 and Jesus answered: “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times”. In other words, there is no limit to granting forgiveness! If we have a heart that forgives, we harvest smiles, peace and joy. We harvest love all around us.

Even God forgives our sins, how can we be unforgiving? How can we forget the story of Mary Magdalene about to be stoned to death because she was caught in the act of adultery? After everyone left the scene when Jesus asked the people “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her”, Mary Magdalene approached Jesus and asked if Jesus would also condemn her. Jesus replied “neither do I condemn you. Go and from now on do not sin any more”. The Lord forgave Mary Magdalene promptly, right there and then. In the same way, Jesus calls us to forgive without delay.

Part of our BLD mission states “Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love and unity.” We are called to love one another and forgive one another just as the Lord loves and forgives us. As a community that constantly praises and worships together, forgiveness among our brothers and sisters in community takes on an even more special meaning. Jesus admonishes us in Matthew 5:23: “therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother and then come and offer your gift.” Further in the same Gospel He says: “If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions. If we still believe that we have a valid reason to withhold forgiveness to someone for a perceived wrong done to us, try imaging the passion of Christ. Nailed to the cross, after suffering for our sins, Jesus calls out to his Father “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”. Lord Jesus, thank you for your love for us that is unconditional, irrevocable and total. Help us to be as loving and as forgiving as you. Amen.

Directions:

1. Support Stewardship Committee’s project on reaching out to our inactive BLD members.
2. Be patient, be quick to forgive and be reconciled with each other.
3. Receive the sacrament of healing and reconciliation.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Sept. 10 starting @ 10:30pm @ Fellowship area

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Sat. of the month. Volunteers are needed.

Sept. 11 • Solo Parents • Contact: SoloParents@bldnewark.com

Audie/Vulet Chong 732-356-9056

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Sept 25-ME# 27 Contacts: Bong/Merle Encarnacion

908.456.3167, 973.495.9842 atemacruz@aol.com,

cirilo.encarnacion@comcast.net • Ency/Baby Alberto

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

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Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!!

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"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

"No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it."

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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John 6 Crossing #11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Venue to be announced

Contact: Gary/Mil Camacho @ mia@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

9/10 Basic Bible Study • **Amazing Grace**

9/11 Shepherds Training (Refresher)

9/17 Christian Maturity Program • **Singles**

9/18 Basic Bible Seminar • **LSS 33 & 34**

Christian Maturity Program • **LSS 31 & 32**

Post Covenantal Teaching • **Covenanted**

Disciples

9/24 Intercessory Formation • **Intercessory Class**

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me in this, says the LORD of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure?" (Malachi 3:10)

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING SEPT. 3, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	6,442	124,552
Expenses	5,308	139,209
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,134	(14,657)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

DLC MEETING

Sept. 11 • 1-5PM • Divine Mercy Parish

BLD GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18 • Southmoore Golf Club, Bath, PA

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in a fun-filled day of golf. Proceeds will help further the BLD Newark's Mission & Vision.

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Oct. 9, 2010, 1-5pm** for our next

Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 36

Bulletin Edition

September 17, 2010

Overwhelming Joy

I started going to BLD when we used to worship in a small library at St. Theresa's in Kenilworth. I later attended LSS#3. In 1996, my spouse and I had a beautiful worship-filled wedding concelebrated by Fr. Paul Lehman and attended by BLD. That year we attended ME#8. Our family had the community at the center of our lives. And the fruits of the Holy Spirit manifested well in our household.

Around 1999, I had a situation with fellow BLD members. Despite all the love and effort of other members, I didn't want to come back. I allowed resentment and anger to grow inside me, so I dropped out. Later I realized that was the Lord's test that I should have been unconditionally forgiving others yet trusting His will for me.

Life comes in cycles with lots of ups and downs. We went through my near fatal plane crash, my cancer diagnose and other family issues. However, none were enough for the Lord to call me back in nor was He a big part of our lives. I fell into a very deep state of depression and isolation, which was very lonely and painful even when surrounded by people you love and who love you. I started to realize the need for the Lord's assurance of strength to help me overcome my burden is what makes my life's crosses worth living.

I am reminded of the recent Gospel reading on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. There are two things that motivate change: inspiration or desperation. I left because my life was going well and on the flipside I was unforgiving towards others. Why come back to BLD after all these years? Desperation, yes, but it was only by the Grace of God that He found me, one of His lost sheep. I can feel and touch the warmth of that overwhelming joy when He carried me over His shoulders to welcome me home! I also felt welcome, acceptance and love at BLD. It takes a lot of humility and dying to oneself to be back in community. But it is through community,

Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

TRUSTWORTHY STEWARDS

WORD: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

THEME: We have the heart and character of Christ when we are trustworthy stewards.

ORDER: 1. ***"Be trustworthy in small and great matters."*** (Luke 16:11 [paraphrased])
2. ***"Prepare a full account of your stewardship."*** (Luke 16:2)
3. ***"Everyone should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument."*** (1 Timothy 2:8)

REFLECTION:

In the parable of the unjust steward, Jesus gives His disciples lessons in stewardship. This parable is better understood against the background of ancient Palestinian economics and its usury laws. A rich man who might have been an absentee landowner entrusted the care of his property to a steward who reportedly wasted his master's wealth. On learning this, the master immediately asked for an inventory of his goods and dismissed the steward.

The steward, knowing that he would likely lose his job, was too proud to beg, but not too proud to steal. He set about making plans for his future. He went to his employer's customers who owed his master money and gave them discounts thus reducing their outstanding debts. The debtors were only too glad to cooperate. The steward thus gained friends who would welcome and support him once he lost his job. The steward was ultimately commended by his master for acting shrewdly.

Jesus did not commend the man for his dishonesty, but rather for the way he used the opportunity to secure his future. He drew a contrast between the dishonest steward's inventive and determined scheme,

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor...." (Ps 113: 7)

On Being A Solo Parent

"I am wearied with sighing; all night long tears drench my bed; my couch is soaked with weeping. My eyes are dimmed with sorrow, worn out all because of all my foes." (Ps 6:7-8)

I was overwhelmed with my role as father and mother to my six children. Three of them were still in college and my youngest was in first year high school when my spouse died in 1998. I survived and all my children became professionals and eventually settled down with God's help and guidance.

I found myself so blessed especially after I joined SPE#11 of Bukas Loob sa Diyos Community on June 26-28, 2009. I found this community very well organized and everything ran very systematically from the encounter up to where I am now, the Intercessory Immersion. Every teaching I attended gave more meaning to my being a Solo Parent. I excitedly look forward and am confident that the months and years ahead will be equally important for my formation. The LSS, Servanthood, Washing of the Feet, Agony in the Garden and other retreats made me feel closer to God. I began to look forward to worship every Friday and felt excited whenever I joined the scheduled activities of the Solo Parents Ministry.

Our sponsorship of SPE#12 enabled me to grow emotionally and spiritually. I felt very close to every member of my ministry especially to my class shepherds, my LSS shepherd and the elders. I consider the members of my class my brothers and sisters; indeed they are treasures I will keep in my heart not only during the happy days but also in time of need.

I began to understand His "Word" and applied them to my daily life. Talking to the Lord everyday, with the guidance of the Magnificat and Scripture readings makes me feel God's love and guidance in all that I do. I have truly experienced the solemnity and power of prayer when my aged mother became very sick. The community bombarded the heavens with prayers for her and she was miraculously cured. Problems indeed seemed easier to handle now. A brighter outlook permeates my whole being as I enjoy satisfaction and peace of mind in the knowledge that the Lord is always by my side.

"Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous? Thus the last will be the first, and the first will be last." (Mt 20:14-16)

With God's generosity, nobody can be late. Though I had spent my early years with family concerns, God continued to call me and made me a laborer in His vineyard. Though I am a Solo Parent, I am never alone as I will always have my brothers and sisters in the BLD Community. Happiness engulfs my whole being in serving the Lord, even in the littlest way I can. Join me in thanking the Lord...Alleluia.

To Love Is To Forgive

The word *love*, in Hebrew is "Ahava", meaning I give and also love. To love someone is a gift from God. Truly, the feeling of love is a grace from God. Love itself is inexpressible until one experiences it himself/herself. Love encompasses so much. One can do so much when he/she loves. But without love what one does means nothing (cf 1 Cor 13:1).

I didn't know love is a beautiful feeling until I fell in love. Then I found out it is a gift from God after my renewal that came when I became a member of this community, after I attended the encounters, the LSS, the teachings and fellowship the community offered. God created me out of love and now, I live a unique and meaningful life because His unconditional love gives me a deeper relationship with Him in my daily life.

Forgive in Hebrew is "Mechila" meaning pardon. The word to forgive is a very sensitive word, as if there is a misunderstanding, something to be fixed, reconciled, and broken. But the word itself can be broken down into "for giving". Giving of one's self to the other until the grace of God reaches the rightful meaning – to forgive.

In Luke 7:46-50, the woman who had many sins had been forgiven. She had shown great love for Jesus. The woman bathed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped His feet with her hair. She had not ceased kissing Jesus' feet; she anointed Jesus' feet with ointment. Her love was the consequence of her forgiveness.

During these times, confession, corporal works of mercy and loving one's enemies by praying for them are ways of repenting for our sins and showing our love for Jesus. In my life, my parents taught me to love my neighbors and forgive them. *"But to you who hear, I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."* (Lk 6:27-28)

Living within this community, by attending Friday worship, I am reenergized. It enriches my faith and enables me to become a witness to others. I learn to love and to forgive. Love leads to forgiveness. *"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."* (Mt 6:14-15) It is hard to practice, but by asking God to give me the grace and allowing myself to die to self, I can forgive. Forgiving is a commandment from God. No "but", I have to give so I may receive the blessing that God had promised me.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

and the lack of initiative for the prudent use of goods for God's purpose by the believers. He told His disciples that ***"the children of the world are more prudent with their own generation than are the children of light."*** (Lk 16: 8b) referring to the children of this world being more astute and zealous in managing and acquiring material things.

Jesus tells us that we, children of the light, must be just as enthusiastic to invest our opportunities and resources in making friends for the Lord. Perseverance in inviting friends and members of our families to our BLD encounters can be a good start. There are many opportunities around us that can help us invest in the goodness of others for the good of God's Kingdom – for example, by giving alms to the poor generously.

We are stewards of our time. Oftentimes, we seem to be in such a hurry to accumulate material things for our future, but, where does our future lie? Mt 6:19-21 states, ***"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."***

We are stewards of our own gifts and abilities. Are we faithful to the assignments given to us in community however small and unimportant these may seem to be? We are stewards of God's Word. He judged us to be worthy to be entrusted with the Gospel and His Truth. If we have been faithful, God will surely give us our reward.

We are stewards of God's material wealth. Everything comes from Him, including life itself. It is written: ***"You cannot serve God and mammon."*** (Lk 16:13) Love of money can be a source of evil and can defile those who are attached to it. Jesus demands total devotion to God and placing God before everything else. ***"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be given unto you."*** (Mt 6:33) Let us be wise stewards called to the ideals of responsible and caring stewardship. We should make 'money' our servants and GOD our Master!

Good stewardship also calls for honesty and truthfulness in dealing with each other. The first letter of Saint Paul to Timothy urges us to offer prayers, petitions and thanksgiving for all men, for kings and those in authority. We pray that our leadership will always be guided by God's Word in making decisions for the good of all its members. We also pray for the membership to respect, to be honest and truthful to each other. Our community is a place for brothers and sisters to

Continued on page 4

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

At God's command, Moses made a bronze serpent and the Israelites who had been bitten by the serpents looked up at this symbol and were healed from their sickness. In the same way, we should look upon the cross with faith, love, devotion, and adoration, remembering Christ's suffering and death, His obedience and great sacrifice by which Jesus, obedient even unto death, redeemed us and gave us our salvation. The cross is a symbolic summary of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, we honor the Holy Cross by which Christ redeemed the world. Jesus died on the cross because the Father willed it, and the Father willed it because He loves us. The Father did not spare even His own son in His great desire to redeem us. The Cross brought death and destruction, but it also opened the doors to eternal life, Christ's victory over sin and death.

"Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11)

Lord, help me to be grateful for what You have done for me. Help me to appreciate the great mystery of Your passion, death and resurrection. Help me to carry my cross honorably, as a glorious sign of Your victory over sin and death. I believe you want me to be so united to You that I may radiate Your presence. I am humbled to be called to Your service, and I know that the mission that comes from You is beyond my own strength. I hope I will be generous enough to put aside my own likes so that I may receive the shower of Your love and be a sign of Your goodness to all people. Amen!

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www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

COUNSEL (from page 1)

worship God and to fellowship with one another without thought for any personal gain. Let us lift up our holy hands in prayer without wrath and dissension but as one body of Christ, in love. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* (Col 3:16-17)

DIRECTION: *"Be honest and be truthful in dealing with each other offer supplication prayers, petitions and thanksgiving for everyone."* (1 Tim 2: 1)

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

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Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.

Sept. 25 • ME# 27 Contacts: Bong/Merle Encarnacion
908.456.3167 • 973.495.9842 atemcruz@aol.com,
cirilo.encarnacion@comcast.net • Ency/Baby Alberto

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Overwhelming Joy (from page 1)

we learn and acquire agape love to think not of our interests and concerns but to serve so that we can edify, build up and strengthen others.

I came to a deeper understanding of our Lord's calling. It is a long, slow and difficult journey. If we go too fast and too soon, we burn out. Just like a marathon runner we need focus, endurance and determination. As a disciple we all need to keep our focus on the Lord, to open our hearts and minds so that He can teach us and take us through this long, slow and difficult journey called LIFE. And with His love and grace we hope to attain our goal Eternal Life. AMEN!

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Christian Maturity Program • LSS 31 & 32

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Disciples

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LORD'S PROVISION

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SAVE THE DATE

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Oct. 9, 2010, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 37

Bulletin Edition

September 24, 2010

BLD NEWARK ANNUAL GOLF OUTING



By God's grace, this year's Golf Outing was another success! It was held on Saturday, September 18th. The weather forecast in New Jersey was bleak: cloudy, with thunderstorms. Yet, as the event was held in the beautiful Southmoore Golf Club in Lehigh Valley in Bath, Pa., there was not a cloud in the sky. The golfers enjoyed a majestic, clear and sunny day, no doubt a gift from the Lord! There were 53 golfers that attended. What was most notable was the generous and faith-filled service of two ME classes: 29 and 30 with the loving support of the ME 26 class and their shepherds.

Success in our Golf Outings can be measured in many ways, its financial outcome is only one of them. What was lacking in the number of golfers was supplemented by the generosity of others. On behalf of this year's Golf Outing chair, Reggie and Fil Malabanan, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who persevered to ensure this year's Golf Outing's success. It was truly God's victory, and we have witnessed again how truly blessed our community is!

BLD Newark Golf Outing 2010: A Reflection

Our journey to the 2010 Golf event started several weeks ago. The ME30 and ME29 classes were notified of this task. Immediately, one of our ME30 couples made a poster board to be displayed every Friday during fellowship. Since the ME30 group is already in the service ministry, the set-up was easy. All we had to do was display this poster.

However, it was not all that simple. What we encountered was the difficult task of selling sponsorship during these tough times. We also had the task of asking golfers to participate, when we hardly knew any golfers. Lastly, other commitments prior to the event prevented us from focusing on the golf outing itself. This gave concerns to the leadership committee. A couple of weeks before the event, we only had a couple of ads sold.

But, no one lost hope. The leaders called out to those who had
Continued on page 2

COUNSELS SHARING OUR LIVES WITH THE POOR

WORD: Amos 6:1, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-10; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

THEME: We have the heart and character of Christ when we share our lives with the poor.

ORDER: 1. *"To keep the commandment without stain or reproach, until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Tim 6: 14)
2. *"Compete well for faith, lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called."* (1 Tim 6:12)

REFLECTION:

This week's theme enjoins us to share our lives with the poor. In this Sunday's gospel, we look at the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man, where Jesus shows us what kind of heart and character we must have to enter the Kingdom of God.

The rich man had nothing but contempt, chose to ignore Lazarus, be indifferent to his needs and did nothing to help him with his situation. At the end of their lives they met with God's divine justice and their situations were radically reversed. Upon his death, the rich man found himself in the netherworld, where he was in perpetual torment. Lazarus, on the other hand, was joined at the side of Father Abraham (the Hebrew equivalent of heaven).

Lazarus was poor, but the kind of poor person that Jesus called blessed in his Beatitudes (Mt 5:3). The poor, as Jesus saw them, are the poor in spirit, who recognize that they are helpless to do anything by themselves and thus recognize that only total reliance on God's love can deliver them.

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Blessed is he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry." (Ps 146: 7)

Giving at Once



“Say not to your neighbor, ‘Go and come again tomorrow I will give’, when you can give at once.”
(Prov 3:28)

A few months ago, I brought my car to an auto shop for a regular maintenance checkup. There I met a fellow Filipino customer and he had asked me what was wrong with my car. I told him that my car was in for a regular maintenance and so I asked him about his car problems. He began to narrate the story to me about what transpired that morning.

While he was driving to work, his car just suddenly stopped in the middle of the road and wouldn't start again. To top it all off, he forgot his cell phone at home. He got out of his car and tried to flag down passing cars for help but to no avail - no one bothered to stop. He tried to push the car but he was unable to do it by himself. At that point, frustration sunk in as he didn't know what to do next.

Suddenly, a car slowed down and pulled over. A man came out and gestured him to get in the driver seat. The man then pushed the car all the way to the curb. He thanked the stranger profusely for it was nice of the stranger to give him a push. After which, the stranger asked him if a tow truck or help was on the way but he told him that he couldn't call for help cause his cell phone was not with him. So this stranger took out his cell and handed it to him so he could call his wife, to call AAA.

Again, the stranger asked him if there was anything else that he could help with, but he said everything should be fine. He didn't know how to repay this stranger, so by instinct he took out his wallet and tried to find a twenty dollar bill to compensate for the man's time and effort. The stranger just smiled it off, walked back to his car and drove off.

Several minutes later, the tow truck arrived and brought his car to the shop. He still couldn't believe that after a series of unsuccessful attempts trying to flag down several passing cars, then comes a Good Samaritan who took the time to help him even without being hailed by him.

... How many times have I ignored someone who needed help and have excused myself to be somewhere at certain time, whether at work or at a social gathering? When receiving prayer requests, do I take the time to pray even if I don't personally know the person?

Almighty Father, instill in me a generous heart. I have at times pulled back, concentrated on my own needs and dealt with my own worries. Teach me to give without counting the costs and to help without looking for reward, and to do your Holy will. Amen.

For Mass & Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

(then please call the parishes to verify their mass schedules)

Measure of God's Gift

In Ephesians 4:1-6, St. Paul exhorts the early church and all of us to unity: "***I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all***"

This exhortation is a call to unity first on a natural level, with instructions for how we are to deal with one another in our families, churches, community, i.e., with humility, gentleness, patience, and love - being eager to forgive even before an apology is made, and eager to show mercy and to see the good in the one who has hurt you - thereby preserving the unity of the Spirit by letting God's peace reign on earth as it does in heaven.

It is also call to unity on a supernatural level as well. We are members of the mystical body of Christ, with Christ as the head. Regardless of our place or function in the body or our ministry or our gifts or lack of gifts, we all have an important God-appointed role that only we can carry out - like individual instrumentalists in a symphony orchestra. And though we each have different roles, there is a beautiful harmony because we are called to the same hope, Lord, faith, and baptism. Supernaturally, we are all equal, as the beautiful music of the symphony, with Christ as Conductor and Composer.

In Ephesians 4:7, 11-12 St. Paul tells us, "***But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. He gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.***"

St. Paul points out that it is Christ who gives His grace to each of us. To some He gave grace to become apostles, to others prophets, to others evangelists, etc. St. Paul makes it clear that these gifts are not for the church to keep to themselves, but to equip the church for the work of ministry, i.e., building the body of Christ through evangelization, being fishers of men and women who will see Christ reflected in our unity and be drawn to the peace of God reigning in our midst - first on a natural level, then on a supernatural level, who will take their seats in Christ's orchestra.

The family that prays together, stays together.



COUNSEL (from page 1)

The name “Lazarus” means God is my help and Lazarus, despite his sufferings and misfortune, never lost hope in God.

The rich man was punished due to his selfishness (and not due to his being rich, per se). He did not share what in life he had in abundance, with the poor. His sin was not of commission but omission. Despite his predicament, the rich man had not amended his ways and still regarded Lazarus with contempt even as the rich man begged Father Abraham to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with water from the tip of his finger. Not dissuaded by this, the rich man made one last appeal to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers – who were like him and were themselves selfish - expecting to spare their souls - if only they would repent should someone from the dead go to them. Father Abraham did not think they would be persuaded, especially since they had not listened to Moses and the prophets in their time. Father Abraham speaks about true repentance which should really come from pure love of God. As St Paul restates “...keep[ing] the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Tim 6:14).

The prophet Amos in the first reading admonishes us against complacency in Zion which renders us indifferent or apathetic to the needs of the poor. Complacency deprives the poor of what they need and denies their humanity and personal dignity. We should not wallow in comfort while the poor that dwells amongst us remains mostly ignored and unattended.

Who are the poor? The poor are those who are hungry, homeless, imprisoned, beaten, abandoned and unemployed, to whom the community should continue to bring, not only food and materials, but proclaim the gospel to at all times. The poor are our ailing and aging fathers and mothers, siblings struggling in the Philippines, children or grandchildren battling societal problems, the victims of floods, earthquakes and other catastrophes and those suffering from legal and social injustices, who may not always need money in every circumstance, but need our love, time, interest and concern, the most. We are called to spread BLD's vision and mission and carry out the Catholic church's call to evangelize the gospel and share our faith with those who have not met Jesus yet or have chosen not to remain on the Vine for so long.

With gratitude in our hearts for all the things the Lord has done for us, we should pursue our discipleship formation and welcome all the trials that

Continued on page 4

In God's Time



“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens...” (Ecc 3:1)

“Are we there yet? Why is it taking forever? How long, O Lord, how long?” When our plans and goals collide with our Timex, we are trapped in impatience, anger and frayed nerves. The expectation of instant gratification becomes an exercise in frustration rather than an opportunity to show faith and trust. It is in waiting that hope springs eternal. If God is slow to answer it is because His time is unencumbered, infinite, and immeasurable. For God **“is the one who is and who was and who is to come.”** (Rev 1:8). As one writer noted, God prepares us in a crock pot not in a microwave! Waiting deepens our maturity and understanding, levels our perspective and strengthens our endurance. In “The Sanctifier”, Archbishop Luis Martinez sums it up beautifully “time ripens the fruits in the fields, time ripens the fruits in the soul.”

In the culture of Internet, iPods, iPhones and digital tech, everything zips at high speed! In this frenetic pace, we become victims of our own success. We look at accomplishment as something done on time. Abraham was 75 years and childless when God promised to make a great nation spring from him. When Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah 90, God tells them, “Get ready!” The biological impossibility became possible. **“...but for God, all things are possible.”** (Mt 19:26). At just the right moment, Isaac was born, and from him descended God's chosen people, Israel. The Book of Exodus shows the time frame of God. Noah waited 120 years before the rain arrived; Joseph waited 14 years before he was set free from pharaoh's prison; Job waited a lifetime, 60-70 years before God's justice. It took 40 years for Israelites' deliverance from Egypt!

When things go wrong in our life, we instinctively seek God and in the same vein, blame Him for our misfortunes. We complain when we do not get what we pray for, or get frustrated at the tortoise pace of God's response to our problem. God works His wonders in HIS TIME! He answers our prayers, but not every time, for it is in our unanswered prayers that spirit of wisdom, faith, trust, loyalty are formed. God's place is with those who wait, not with those who have arrived.

God knows our needs and wants even before we tell Him. **“Work at your tasks in due season, and in His own time God will give you your reward.”** (Sir 51:30). When we have done all that we can, trust the Lord to do the rest! **“He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts...”** (Ecc 3:11).

A Five-Second Reflection

At any given moment, God is sending us many messages of love. Stop and listen

COUNSEL (from page 3)

come our way. We should stand tall in the face of adversity, "Compete well for the faith, lay hold of eternal life, to which (we) you were called." (1 Tim 6:12) Ultimately, we should share our lives, time, talent and treasure and through good works, especially showing mercy for all the poor who cannot help themselves. The heart and character of Jesus is gracious and merciful; His love compels us to treat others with mercy and kindness. Do you treat your neighbor with mercy and love as Christ has treated you? When we do something for one of Christ's little ones, we do it for Christ. "*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.*" (Mt 25: 40).

DIRECTION:

- Man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11)
- Intensify our evangelization and mission work to reach out to those who need God – the poor, the needy, the abandoned, and the outcast.

GOLF OUTING (from page 1) ...donated. before, and also to the golfers who had played in previous golf outings. A few of the ME29 and ME30 couples sponsored a few ads themselves. Going into the final day, we had more than enough golfers. We had enough money raised from the ads. We had more than enough man-power to support the event.

In the end, it was a win-win situation for everyone who supported the cause. We had enough funds for prizes. The golfers enjoyed a beautiful day. Even the wind and weather were cooperative. The tasks for the sponsoring class were easy enough, allowing us to enjoy our picnic under the trees, along with our children. Lastly, the objectives of the event were met. The golfers, the workers, the committee, and the community, had their share of blessings.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Sat. of the month.
Contacts: Ency/Baby Alberto

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7hra@aol.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - continued

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:
http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing #11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Venue to be announced

Contact: Gary/Mil Camacho @ m1a@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

SEP 24	Intercessory Formation • Intercessory Class
OCT 15	Intro to Intercession • Singles Service Formation • Service Class
OCT 16 *	Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit • LSS 33 Apologetics • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples Supplemental Teachings • LSS 29, 30, 31, 32
OCT 22	Intercessory Formation • Intercessory Class
OCT 29	Intro to Intercession • ME 35

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING SEPT. 17, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	9,517	143,998
Expenses	1,238	141,306
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,279	2,692*

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

Thank you for your continued support!

*Pending Golf Outing & Dinner Dance liquidation reports.

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place **every 4th Friday** at the Auditorium

SAVE THE DATE

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Stewardship - It's a way of life!

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on *Covenant News*.



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BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 38

Bulletin Edition

October 1, 2010

For this LSS Week-end...

*...Upon Me, Your Gifts
Bestow*



Upon me, Your gifts bestow
Holy Spirit help me know
How to use them wisely
Use them for Your glory.

The gift of tongues grant me
That I may sing out praise loudly
Or let me interpret what others say
When in tongues Your people pray

Your healing gifts I will share
To those in need, I'll show I care
Pray ardently for precious health
For that is what is real wealth

If the future You will have me see
With Your gift of prophecy
May I proclaim what might come to be
Help us live life, more holy.

And should You deem me fit to possess
To the gift of miracles, may I say yes
For with You anything is possible
Yes I'll try to do all that I'm able.

Give me stronger faith in You
Gifts of wisdom, knowledge too
Help me to discern Your Word
Do all I can, for You my Lord

Upon me, Your gifts bestow
Holy Spirit help me know
How to use them wisely
Use them for Your glory.
To that One and same Spirit
Yes to You, All glory be.

COUNSELS

FORBEARANCE

WORD: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we bear the hardship of sharing the gospel.

ORDER: "...that today you would hear his voice, harden not your hearts..." (Ps 95:7-8)

REFLECTION:

In the second reading St. Paul reminds Timothy of his ordination to the ministry when, by the laying of his hands on Timothy, the latter received the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts necessary for the ministry. We too have received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized and confirmed. We were given the spiritual gifts necessary to live our Christian life. Our baptism in the Holy Spirit during our Life in the Spirit seminar rekindled these spiritual gifts. It was then we decided to take to heart our relationship with Jesus Christ by pursuing the BLD Formation tracks. We made a Covenant with our Lord to be holy and precious in His eyes. As active members of BLD we also adhered to the BLD Covenant Community Vision statement which states:

"We are a communion of individuals, couples, and families called together as one people through a moment of encounter and the process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope, and love of God. We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and our uniting compassion with one another. We are blessed with personal gifts – spiritual and natural, innate or acquired – which we yield to the Word and the Spirit. We give freely and fully of ourselves; love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's Kingdom. We commit ourselves, as disciples of Jesus, to speak the words and do the deeds of Christ among peoples and nations to whom we are called by the Lord."

The first reading states: ***"For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it*** *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"...but the just man, because of his faith, shall live."
(Hb 2:4)

A Disciple's Reflection

"Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked shall I go back again. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away" (Job 1:21)

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be hindered." (Job 42:2)

In the ongoing process of my renewal, I fully realize the absolute Truth that God exists, He is SOVEREIGN, He is a relational God, and as in Romans 8:28 *"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose."* My journey is to establish an intimate personal relationship with Him through Jesus.

As a believer, God is my all in all through my Redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ. Although I have the freedom of choice, everything that happens in my life is God's Providence. All that I am and all that I have is a gift from Him, designed to transform me in the image and likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

I understand and accept that I am God's creation. In humility, and to truly show my spiritual authenticity, I have to totally surrender my will to His Will and obey His commandments: love him fully and my neighbor as I love myself (Luke 10: 27). His purpose is my holiness, for only as a Saint can I enter the Kingdom and experience my adoption as part of His family.

And the most important thing to fully realize and understand is that as a Christian, we should expect and accept sufferings: persecutions, discriminations, sickness, pains, etc. We have to identify these experiences to the *Passion, Death, and Resurrection* of our Lord. In such humiliation does He exalt us as we surrender to His will and obey. In our discipleship, we imitate the *Passion, Death, and Resurrection* of Jesus. We join our sufferings, our doubts, our anguish, our pains to His cross. In prayer, we ask for His help that we may be truly worthy of our calling. We offer everything of ours always for His glory.

Lord, I am an unprofitable servant. Do with me as you wish. Teach me Your ways, Lord, that I may walk in Your truth. My joy is to see You face to face. Amen.

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www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

(then please call the parishes to verify their mass schedules)



Lord, I'm Waiting

In Psalm 27:14 God exhorts us to be patient thus: *"Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!"* As busy people in a fast-paced world, many of us find waiting patiently for God is difficult. Why? Because we are fallible human beings seeking to live according to our own timetables, not God's. In our better moments, we realize that patience is not only a virtue, but more importantly, it is God's command.

We are impatient by nature. We know what we want, and exactly at what time: NOW! But, God knows better. He has created a world that unfolds according to His plans, not ours. As believers, we must trust His wisdom and His goodness.

God instructs us to be patient in all things. We must be patient with our families, friends and associates, even strangers. We also have to be patient with the Lord Himself as He reveals His plans for our lives, ever so slowly! And that's as it should be. After all, think how we tested His patience with us with all those broken promises to repent!

"I waited, waited for the Lord; who bent down and heard my cry." (Psalm 40:1) It isn't just people who try our patience. Situations do it too. We find ourselves in places we don't want to be, doing things we have no desire to do, in circumstances we don't want to embrace and there's little or nothing we can do about it. So we fume and fester, and our frustrations intensify. God is not the God of the quick fix. Neither is He the Lord of the instant. He takes His time growing an oak from an acorn and allows the long winter to prepare the earth for the warmth of spring. But it is precisely the promise of spring that makes the winter more palatable, and it is the certainty that an oak lies hidden within that acorn that makes it bearable to wait for the tree to grow.



Why, we wonder, does God take His time? No doubt His reasons are many and profound, but perhaps it is because we can only appreciate how solid is the rock He provides when we have thoroughly experienced the mud and the mire.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late." (Hb 2:3) When we joined the BLD Community and read the Community Vision, we might have thought that we have chosen the right community because people seemed to be holy and happy. Yet as we progressed in the discipleship program, we realized that we are still all sinners needing the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Vision is still not realized in community life – we still encounter relationship problems among members; we remain anxious for our future and that of our children, we're still waiting to experience real and continuing compassion from others; we still doubt the spiritual gifts we received when we refuse to use them; we still fail to be gentle, humble, and mild like Jesus; we still feel inadequate in evangelizing others by our words and deeds; we still encounter problems in our lives.

Yet the first part of the Community Vision states that we are in "the process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope, and love of God." Our process of renewal entails hardships when we begin to follow Jesus and reject the values of the world. Former close friends and relatives reject us as fanatics as we avoid vulgar conversations and instead infuse the Word of God. Our means of livelihood decrease as we begin to pursue honest means, live simple lives to serve the needs of others. And after some time, we feel that community life has become routine and burdensome, as we content ourselves with regular attendance to weekly prayer meetings and word sharing sessions. When we have this feeling, it is time to review and re-read the Community Vision and ask ourselves how we can help to make this Vision a reality.

The Gospel reminds us that we have been given the seed of faith and it is up to us to nurture it. St. Peter says: "Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love." (2 Pt 1:5-7) We need to enliven our faith by praying always, making His Word alive in us, frequently receiving the Sacraments; working with and for the Lord – be on Mission. It is in mission work that we encounter hardships. But as we rely on the Holy Spirit, we see the fruit of our mission work in the conversion of others. Our faith is enlivened and strengthened. We realize that it is by the grace of God that we are made His instruments for the salvation of others. We thank and acknowledge that God reigns supreme in our lives and without Him we can do nothing. So even if we have so many problems and burdens and think that the Lord seems so distant, we need to persevere in doing God's will. The Lord can grant us unwavering faith. And when we are blessed as channels of His grace, we just say: "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do." (Lk 17:10) Then we can have the Promise of the Week: "...but the just man, because of his faith, shall live." (Hb 2:4)

Directions:

- Put your faith into practice and follow God's commandments.
- Encourage more disciples to give their testimony on the victory of the Lord in their lives.

Father Paul Speaks **St. Therese and St. Francis**

The beginning of the month of October celebrates the saints I could call, little people. Friday is the feast of St. Therese, the little flower. Monday is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the humble founder of the Franciscan order. Both accomplished great things in their lives because they were very aware of their limitations, and were thus open to great accomplishments which God can do when we get our ego out of the way.

St. Therese is noted for her "little way". I strongly recommend reading her autobiography. That is why even though she lived a hidden life in a Carmelite cloister and died at the age of twenty-three, she has been declared a doctor of the Church. When she was trying to summarize her vocation she admitted she could not find herself in all the accomplishments of the great saints, like martyrs and missionaries. After all she was a simple cloistered nun. But she discovered her mission as living at the center and soul of the Church and becoming "love". She rightly recognized that without the motive of deep supernatural love all the great movements and feats of the church would be nothing more than visible activity without a soul. That is also why she is also one of the patrons of the missions. Her world view and supernatural love supplied all the power needed to evangelize the whole universe. The lesson of this humble saint can be a reminder to us that accomplishment is the work of the Lord, and all we do is to add the dimension of loving motive in all our actions whether they are so called important ones or simple tasks that nobody sees. Our call in BLD is not to do more, but to love more.

St. Francis is also a very attractive and appealing personality. Some might say he was eccentric, and maybe by our standards he was. His gift is certainly love as manifested in his particular emphasis on "poverty". He literally gave away his clothes when he gave up his family possessions in the presence of the bishop. But because of his radical nothingness, the Lord used him to reform the Church. When the Lord told him to "rebuild my church", Francis thought he was literally talking about physical repair of some of the ruined chapels in his neighborhood. Only in time did he realize he had a much more expansive mission, much physically larger than that of St. Therese. Yet like Therese his poverty emptied himself of the remnants of ego that so often get in the way of great things for the Lord. Pray to these great saints for the gift of love and emptiness, and watch how our community can grow!

A Five-Second Reflection

Can you feel passionate about Christ today?

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Saturday. Volunteers are needed.

Oct. 9 • YE #16 • Contacts Youth Ministry @ yca@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet Chong 732.356.9056

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at: http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!! Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450-word essay writing *challenge*. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ, before ascending into heaven You promised to send the Holy Spirit to continue Your work in the souls of the Apostles and disciples. Grant the same Spirit to us that we may ever better cooperate with Your love and grace.

Grant us the spirit of *Wisdom*- that we may not unduly attach ourselves to perishable things and aspire ever more for things that are eternal

The spirit of *Understanding*- that Divine Truth might enlighten our mind

The spirit of *Knowledge*- that we may see all things in the light of Divine Revelation

The spirit of *Counsel*- that we may always choose the surest way of pleasing God

The spirit of *Fortitude*- that we may bear our crosses with courage

The spirit of *Piety*- that we may be filled with a childlike love for God and be eager to obey Him in all things

The spirit of *Fear*- that will make us avoid whatever displeases You.

This we ask, for the greater glory of the Triune God. Amen.

(by: Fr Lechner, C.S. Sp.)

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on *Covenant News*.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing #11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions

80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Contact: Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo

singles@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/15	Intro to Intercession • Singles Service Formation • Service Class
10/16*	Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit • LSS 33 Apologetics • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples Supplemental Teachings • LSS 29, 30, 31, 32
10/22	Intercessory Formation • Intercessory Class
10/29	Intro to Intercession • ME 35
11/19	Service Formation • Service Class
11/20	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33 Growth in Prayer/New Creation Realities • LSS 34 & 35 Healing & Deliverance • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING SEPT. 24, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections*	6,169	150,168
Expenses	2,342	143,649
Surplus/(Deficit)*	3,827	6,519

* Already reflects some collections for the Dinner Dance for which expenses are yet to be incurred. Financial details are available to all members through

treasury@bldnewark.com

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Oct. 9, 2010, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

BLD DINNER DANCE

Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

Community Retreat

Oct. 23 • Time & Venue (To Be Announced)



FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

“When Pentecost came round, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them the gift of speech.”
(Acts 2: 1-4)

Nine and a half couples, 18-solo parents and 18-singles received the much awaited Baptism of the Holy Spirit the week-end of Oct. 1, 2010 at the Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway, N. J. Each candidate had a unique experience to share. Led by Fr. Dave Sison in prayer and adoration, the candidates joyfully acclaimed the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst. The sharers gave wonderful testimonies of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Fr. Dave stressed that the weekend is just the beginning of our own transformation and that problems would still continue to come and go but the presence of the Spirit in our lives will equip us better to handle the strife.

We give God the glory as we congratulate the graduates of LSS# 35: Steven Adel, Mario & Jean Afante, Estrella Aggabao, Dorothy Alburo, Amanda Anderson, Monica Avisado, Vic Calimoso, Ramon & Rodora Cartasano, Fe Chenet, Vergel Clavel, Edgardo Curbita, Wenifredo & Fatima Darvin, Lisa De Gorostiza, Aileen Diaz, Ibar & Alona Dinampo, Miles Dionisio, Dinah Encarnacion, Roxanne Entrada, Jose & Mely Gabriel, Belen Grasparil, Jean Guitierrez, Eileen Inciong, Frank Lim, Andrew Manansala, Lilia Manlapaz, Lisa Martinez, Violeta Meneses, Mark Militar, Carlos Ocasio, Paul & Caroline Okereke, Jes Pacia, Kirsten Pacia, Julito Pasturan, Paul Pineda, Brian & Maria Rayack, Jean-Robert & Marie Jose Richard, Michael Rivera, Resty Rivera, Vivian Roz, Nina Sampilo, Barry & Tawnie Scymanski, Eric Tuy, Gloria Valerio, Ana Marie Vales, Lucille Vizcayno and Oliver Yap.

We all lift up our hands to our Lord God Almighty as we give Him all the honor, praise and glory for again another powerful, spirit filled LSS weekend. Truly a witnessing of His miracle as the lambs opened their hearts to our Lord and
continued on page 3

COUNSELS

THE CLEANSING OF TEN LEPERS

WORD: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4;
2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

ORDER: Give thanks to God.

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we gratefully acknowledge His gift of salvation.

REFLECTION:

“All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of



God.” (Ps 98:3) “The word of God is not chained.” It can not be imprisoned. It is free. And it can not be limited by national boundaries. It is for everyone. The universal call for salvation is made most clear in our readings today. In our first reading, Naaman, the Syrian is healed of his leprosy, and in the gospel a Samaritan is healed of the same. Both were foreigners and essentially enemies of

Israel, but it is these two, we hear of today to make clear that the word of God and His power are unbounded.

And when these foreigners are healed they return praising God; they make clear their faith in the Holy One, much to the shame of those, who are native to His house, who may often lack such recognition of the Lord and His works in
continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“...your faith has saved you.”
(Luke 17:19)

THE PERFECT PRAYER

A. S. K.

“Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.”
(Lk 11:1)

The Lord’s prayer is a model of brevity and integrity. Although concise, it embodies the vitality of praise, petition and confession. Jesus **praises** God thus, *“Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come...”* He **petitions** to *“give us each day our daily bread..”* And in humility, although sinless, He **confesses** *“to forgive us our sins....”* for the benefit of His disciples. Prayer is recited to draw attention to how much we need God, not to draw God’s attention to our needs. *“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him”* (Mt 6:8).

Is there a negative way of praying? Yes! The Pharisees and scribes are examples of praying for “show”. In idolatry, worshippers chant repetitively in the belief that the more frequent they ask for something, the better chance they have of having their request granted. Jesus admonishes that *“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that others may see them... In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they would be heard because of their many words”* (Mt 5:5-7).

Prayer is communion with God. It reinforces the basic truths of our faith: God is alive, He loves us, and He knows us inside out. We have a choice: faith over worry and fear. *“Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for anyone who approaches God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him”* (Heb 11:6). God wants us to turn to Him with all that we are. He wants us to persevere so that when we have done His will, we will receive what He promised, *“when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you”* (Jer 29:13-14). Sincerity and persistence bring us unto God’s presence and releases His grace in our lives and help us stay open to the mystery of His ways.

God blesses us with wisdom and understanding to work through life’s challenges. He also wants us to bring these challenges to Him so He can offer us His help and guidance. When we pray, give our complete trust and faith on the Lord and worry not about tomorrow. *“...I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you eat; nor about your body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing...your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Lk 12:22-23; 30-31).

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Luke 11: 9)

Ask. Seek. Knock. That’s what our Lord tells us to do. These commands are like the three legs of a tripod or an easel. Neither of these common devices will stand unless the three legs are properly in place. At work, we have an old wooden display easel. Each leg of the easel has to be attached individually. It sometimes happens that as you place one leg in its socket, another leg falls out. You have to keep trying because it just won’t work without all three legs. Ask, seek and knock are the three legs that support our Christian faith. They are essential to our prayer lives and to the Mass as well. If we want to stand firm, we need to have all three in place.

The first leg says “Ask.” Jesus tells us that if we ask the Father for anything in His name, God will give it to us. We may be asking for forgiveness or healing, for guidance or strength, or for a million different things that we need every day. Every Mass begins with the Penitential Rite in which we ask God to forgive our sins.

Often we come to God asking for physical healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Recently, I asked my spiritual director to anoint me in preparation for a medical procedure which could have a life-changing outcome. Sensing my anxiety, Father told me to trust in God’s will because only He knows how things will turn out. So that’s what I have been doing while leaning heavily on leg No1, “...ask and you will receive.”

Leg No2 tells us to “Seek.” We seek God in many ways. At Mass, the Liturgy of the Word reveals the Father through Scripture and homily. Our Friday-night worship brings us closer to Jesus, seeking Him through praise, the inspired words of the worship leaders, and our word sharing circles. I also find that spending an hour with Our Lord in Adoration brings me even closer. “Seek and you shall find.” Worship and Adoration help me to find Jesus.

The third leg is “Knock.” When we knock with humble hearts, the door is opened by Jesus Himself. In the Mass, when the priest calls on the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, we are knocking on the door of Heaven itself; and Jesus invites us in. “Knock and the door will be opened to you.”

“For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Luke 11: 10)

Like that old easel at work, our lives of faith need three strong legs to stand on. Ask. Seek. Knock.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
(Luke 10:25).

During our early years with the BLD, as we get to learn more about God and experience the joy and peace that He brings to our hearts, we start to ask ourselves. “How can we make this joy and peace permanent in our lives? How can we always be in the presence of God? What must we do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus teaches that we gain eternal life when we love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind. And by the way, we must love our neighbor as ourself. Loving, especially loving God, can so easily become abstract and private but we can show God how much we love Him through loving our neighbor. This is where the difficulty arises. As we have noted in the story, the scribe or the scholar of the law wanted to identify and delineate his neighbor in the hope that his responsibility may not be as great.

The phrase, “Good Samaritan” is a cliché. The concept of “Love thy neighbor” is inspiring but nowadays it is often narrowly depicted as helping those in need and giving to charities. This is good, but the concept as taught by Jesus Christ is more than that. It applies to the routine of our daily life. The neighbor may be the irritating person in front of you, the arrogant colleague, the inconsiderate boss, the government official of the other political party, the ungrateful relative, the thoughtless friend, the opinionated co-worker, or even the enemy in war. These and everybody are all our neighbors. We show our love by obeying, forgiving, cooperating, helping, consoling, empathizing, understanding, giving, sharing, caring, and praying for one another.

As a thought, in the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ gave us another way of how to love our neighbor. He said, *“Love one another as I have loved you”* (John 15:12). If you think about it, our love cannot compare with the love that Jesus has for us; however, it shows us how much we should love one another. With God’s help, our perseverance, humility, and our faith, our love can grow and we will be able to know Him more and be pleasing to Him. The analogy I like to think of is: we are all like stones with ragged edges. We are all in a pan (this community) with the water (Holy Spirit) being added. As the pan is continuously shaken, we become stones with round and smooth edges. Similar to those on the seashore, which are round and smooth because of the constant shaking and pounding of the waves of the sea. By being round and smooth, we become attractive, useful and perfect to be held by God’s hands.

Counsels (cont. from page 1)

their lives. This is perhaps the greatest message of this Sunday’s readings, that we must be as the Samaritan who, “realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice and . . . fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him”, for this is what the Lord desires of us, thanksgiving, a sacrifice of praise. How clearly this is shown in Naaman as well, whose offerings of gifts are repelled by Elisha, the man of God. “despite Naaman’s urging”, but who will not leave without the earth from the land of Israel, declaring, “I will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other God but the Lord.” The Lord desires of us our praise and worship of Him only, and when we come bearing this gifts of ourselves, He says to us, “stand up and go, your faith has saved you.”

And so it is, unto the end that we must remain faithful, praising God for the graces He gives to us, if we hope to “obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus together with eternal glory.” We should hear in St. Paul’s teaching in our second reading of the means of salvation and the means of condemnation. The Lord “remains faithful for He can not deny Himself.” He is God. He holds salvation and glory. If we persevere with Him, dying with Him, giving all ourselves always to His service, “we shall also reign with Him.” It can not be otherwise because the Lord indeed blesses those who come to Him. But if we deny Him, He will deny us and this cannot but be, too, for He cannot dwell with untruth.

The Lord’s truth extends to the ends of the earth. His word goes forth to all, and in all salvation may be known through Jesus Christ. But who will trust in Him and fall at His feet in praise of Him, as they find healing for their sins? Let it be so – with us all. Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Live a sacramental life.
2. Demonstrate your gratitude to God by sharing your lived experiences in LSS or Encounter Programs or in word-sharing circles.
3. Tithe faithfully.

Filled with Holy Spirit (cont. from page.1)

be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God. Thank You, Lord for the beautiful works of Your hand. Thank You for the gifts and fruits of Your sweet Spirit to the lambs. We ask that You preserve the peace and joy that has now filled their hearts as they embark on a promise of a new life with You.

As promised in Revelation 7: 17, ***“The lamb on the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to springs of life -giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”***

To God be the Glory !

BLD Community Covenant

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer.
3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

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Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center,

Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo

singles@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/15 Intro to Intercession • **Singles**

Service Formation • **Service Class**

10/16* Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit • **LSS 33**

Apologetics • **LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted**

Disciples

Supplemental Teachings • **LSS 29, 30, 31, 32**

10/22 Intercessory Formation • **Intercessory Class**

10/29 Intro to Intercession • **ME 35**

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING OCT. 1, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,322	153,490
Expenses	15,502	159,151
Surplus/(Deficit)	(12,180)	(5,661)

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

Thank you for your continued support!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410.676.6000

SAVE THE DATE

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY

Please reserve **Oct. 9, 2010, 1-5pm** for our next Disciples Assembly. All committed and covenanted disciples are highly encouraged to attend. There will be no teachings, or any reunions/parties to conflict with this date RSVP to secretariat for valid excuses.

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Oct. 16 • VFW in Manville, NJ

Mark your calendars and plan to join the community & friends for an evening of good food, dancing & fun.

COMMUNITY RETREAT

Oct. 23 • 10am-5pm • Divine Mercy Auditorium



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 40

Bulletin Edition

October 15, 2010

An Evangelization Appointment

When I heard that the relics of a famous saint would be venerated at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, I had planned to attend the Friday evening Mass at the Cathedral. Somehow, I also felt being drawn to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Holy Mass and so I had planned to go to confession during lunchtime that Friday.

However, all throughout that week, and as the days drew nearer to Friday, I felt that Someone was urging me to go to confession earlier. And so, I soon found myself in the Confessional on Wednesday of that week. After confession, I decided to stay for the 12:35pm Mass that was already going on and also to say my penance.

As I was leaving the church after Mass, a young man approached me. Apparently he had also attended the same Mass and he proceeded to ask me some questions about the Holy Eucharist. At first, I was taken aback by his questions and I thought to myself: "Of all the people coming out of church, why me?" I then quickly realized that God had arranged the whole thing. It was He Who drew me to confession and to church that day. It was also He Who gave me the right answers to that young man's queries. I knew that he was searching for something or Someone. As we parted ways, he thanked me and in my heart, I thanked the Lord for bringing us together that day.

Coincidence or a divine appointment set up by the One Who is In-Charge? For me, it was definitely the latter. Praise God!

**Ignorance of the Bible is
ignorance of Christ.
Read your Bible daily!**

COUNSELS PRAYERFULNESS

WORD: Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 2 Tm 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we believe in the power of prayer and the Word of God.

ORDER: *"Pray always without becoming weary."* (Luke 18:1b)

"Proclaim the Word, whether convenient or inconvenient." (2 Timothy 4:2a)

REFLECTION:

Often we are requested by others "to pray for them". The heart and soul of the Scripture Readings for this week teach us how to pray (with uplifted hands) and when to pray (always). As we study Scriptures, we learn, like Moses in our Old Testament reading, Paul's exhortation to Timothy in our second reading and the "widow" in Luke's Gospel, how "persistence" is an important trait to possess if we are to grow in our prayer life. How appropriate it is then that all of us are called upon to be intercessors.

Like Amalek who "came and waged war against Israel" (Ex 17:8), there have been times in our lives that we thought that other people or circumstances around us were waging a spiritual or physical battle against us, our families, our community, or our church. We may recall that it was only during those times when we placed these burdens and attacks at the foot of the cross that they were defeated. It was during those times when we raised our hands in prayer like Moses or when we put on the full "armor of God" (Eph 6:11), that *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"The Lord will guard you from all evil; will always guard your life. The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever."

(Psalm 121:7-8)

We Whom God Have Chosen

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” (Jeremiah 1:5) It is amazing to know that we are all chosen and appointed by the Lord to do a special mission in our lives. Did we ever ask ourselves “what could be our mission aside from spreading His Healing love to everyone we meet? What else can we do aside from spreading His Word to others? I have been in the community for more than 5 years and as I continue my daily walk, I began to ask the Lord, “what is it that you really want me to do Lord?” Many times the desire of my heart is to evangelize, bring people closer to God, and to serve Him. But as we get closer to the Lord, we become ONE in Him by doing His works and thinking like the Lord through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

My heart rejoices every time we spend time in serving Him and aspiring to serve more outside of the community. When we look at the world around us, there are so many things that we can do as believers. It is sad to see that people around us are suffering spiritually and physically, when the only answer to their problems is Jesus! We can never tell what will happen to our day, and we miss many occasions of doing His will because we lack sensitivity and spontaneity. When God puts someone or something in need right in front of us, He is giving us the opportunity to do what He appoints us to. The things that happen to us everyday are His daily plan for us to do His Holy will. Like a child, we long to be obedient and trusting to the One who anointed us, but the trials, challenges and the business of our lives make it difficult to see His plan for us.

“In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will.” (Ephesians 1:11)

We can only attain this purpose by our daily connection to the Lord through our prayers, reading and reflection of His Word and the sacraments. As a chosen child of God gifted and equipped, let us be courageous and joyful to tell the world of His love.

Lord Jesus, give us the grace to listen to your voice in spite of our busy life. Grant us the wisdom to understand our mission, so that we may fulfill our purpose in life, Amen.

Little Less Than Angels

“What are humans that you are mindful of them, mere mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them little less than a god, crowned them with glory and honor.”

(Psalm 8:5-6)

Heavenly Father, You have created the world and all things. You made man in Your image because of Your unconditional love. You have installed man as the steward of your creation on earth. How could man be so favored even with man’s sinfulness? Repeatedly, You have bestowed this honor towards man, than You deigned Yourself to become flesh like Your servant. It is your great love for this lesser, offensive creature that You faithfully look after man’s salvation.

Perhaps, it is the order of things which You want to impart to us in this Psalm. Just as we have heard from our parents in our youthful days, “Take care of your younger siblings, because you are the older one.” If one happens to be the eldest, then it is expected that the eldest child be the “second parent” of the family.

Therefore, we can infer from Your Words in this Psalm, that You, God our Father, appoint man as the steward of all living things, directing him to be in-charge of the environment: lands, waters, and the air. You also expect man to take care and be mindful of other men who are less fortunate or in need of help or resources.

It is with unspeakable joy that such responsibility and bond exist between God and man. Have You not fully exemplified this relationship that You took the form of a human to save humankind from his sins? You knew that we can do no better. The only way out of the mess we keep placing ourselves in is for Your Divinity to step in the plate and bear all our burdens, impurities, and ungodly ways. And, make everything new to man! Yes, O God, You are Awesome!

Let us continue to exalt the name of our Most Sovereign God. With Jesus Christ as our Almighty Redeemer, may we be enlightened by His Word and listen to His voice. May we continue to be governed by his wisdom and power, gaining knowledge as we come to love and enjoy the God of the universe. May we feel His Presence constantly in obedience to His Will.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

the enemy was defeated.

Like Moses who had “Aaron and Hur support his hands” (Ex 17:12b) while Joshua “engaged Amalek in battle” (Ex 17:10), we also have called upon others to support us in prayer. Whenever we place a petition slip in the petition basket, we have asked community members to intercede for us. An essential element of those prayers is faith. We have faith that God will answer our prayers. With “the staff of God” in his raised hands (Ex 17:9b), Moses had faith that the Lord would protect the Israelites from the enemy. Like the Israelites, many of us have fought enemies that without faith would have defeated us.

When in April 2004 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, many prayers, intercessions, and sacrifices were made on my behalf by sisters & brothers from the BLD Community, from my parish faith community, and many other Christians. Two months after the first diagnosis of cancer, the doctor performed six (6) additional biopsies which determined that the “enemy of prostate cancer” was defeated when the doctor could not find any traces of cancer. To the surprised doctor, I was able to witness to him about the prayerfulness of so many who sustained me during that time. Just like Moses who prayed for Joshua against Amalek, I was able to experience first-hand the power of God in my life after the persistent & persevering prayer of others. I was able to understand more than ever the Promise that God makes to us this week, ***“The Lord will guard you from all evil; will always guard your life. The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever.”*** (Ps 121:7-8)

Jesus directs the disciples and us in the Gospel ***“to pray always without becoming weary”*** (Lk 18:1). Just like the widow in the parable that Jesus describes, whose “tireless perseverance” for a just decision against her adversary, we too are called upon by Jesus to ***“be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient.”*** (2 Tm 4:2) in our prayers and petitions and in proclaiming the word. We are called upon to ***“pray without ceasing.”*** (1 Thes 5:17) As we do this, each day we come to realize ever more deeply the scripture verse, ***“the fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful”*** (Jas 5:16) as we see evidence of answered prayers right here in our community.

Let us come before the Lord tonight and ask Him to renew and refresh our prayer life and ask the Holy Spirit to empower us with all of the gifts and fruits of His Spirit that Abba Father knows we need as we continue to intercede and pray for **Continued** ➤

MINISTRY MATTERS **SERVICE MINISTRY**

Shepherding is one of the responsibilities of the community of faith. As a baptized people we share in the ministry of Christ on earth. As a body of Christ we act in the world today in His name.

In each generation some people are called to exercise a special ministry among people of God. We are called to serve in the Service Ministry where we learn to inculcate the true meaning of Christian love, which is “Sacrificial love” that entails giving oneself and reaching out to others.

Service Ministry is one ministry that we are all familiar because we all served in this ministry. Service is a positive way of nourishing our newfound relationship with the Lord. It is a way to grow in our spiritual lives by following Christ and His teachings. Community life does not merely involve attending corporate worship and reading scriptures but also translating Christ’s words into actions.

Every six months a new class (ME, SE, SPE) is assigned in the ministry as part of Christian Formation Program. It is during this time that we will experience the true spirit of God’s love, where we are called to serve and become humble servants of Christ in discipleship committing ourselves to a life witnessing Christ’s life thru humility, obedience, righteousness and servanthood.

Food service during fellowship is an important weekly event in the community. It does not foster bonding among us but enlivens community life. Our day starts early during Friday worship – from shopping for food, beverages and supplies, picking up weekly provisions, blessing of the kitchen venue, preparing the place and food to be served after worship and ends with a closing prayer and clean up of the venue after fellowship.

God revealed His divine love for us in His coming to us as a servant. He came not to rule but to serve (Mt 20:28). Whenever we serve we also see joy in each and everyone serving, because in the midst of service a Divine Presence becomes visible as a gift is offered. For it is in serving that we discover that we are receiving more than we are giving.

one another.

DIRECTIONS

1. Support and reinvigorate the Jeremiah 17 Program.
2. Soak in the Word of God to be competent and equipped for every good work.
3. Strengthen our current CDFP

THE DISCIPLES PRAYER

Jesus, my Lord and my Brother, let me do Your work for your sake, and not for my own pride or self satisfaction. As long as I want what you want I will act prudently and safely. If I fret at my failures I am working for myself and not for You. Your will is to be done, not mine. I hope to attempt all of the good within my reach but I will attempt all of the good within my reach but I will not be over-anxious about the results. If I lose my presence of Mind and my peace of soul it is because I am thinking more of Your work than Your will. I need only do my best. The rest depends on the people around me and Your grace. Let me never think I am bigger or more able than You. I now put all things into Your hands. Amen.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK 10

For the safety of our children, **all parents** of Mark 10 children are requested to **sign in and sign out** for their children. Please note: **drop off must be no earlier than 8pm and pick-up must be no later than 10:45 pm** After 10:45 pm, parents will be responsible for their children's safety.

We thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this very important matter.

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Saturday. **Oct. 23 • Singles Ministry**
Contacts: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo 908.256.2622
arlenemanny@gmail.com • Cris/Ampy Escobinas

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410.676.6000

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:
http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!!
Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450-word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

SAVE THE DATE

Community Retreat

Oct. 23 • 10-5pm • Divine Mercy Parish

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on **Covenant News**.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

John 6 Crossing #11

Oct. 22-24 • Liebenzell Retreat Missions
80 Pleasant Gove Rd, Long Valley, NJ

For info contact John 6 Ministry @ john6@bldnewark.com

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Venue to be announced

Contacts: Paby/Pauline Ibarolla @ 201.523.0878

Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center,
Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo
singles@bldnewark.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/15	Intro to Intercession • Singles Service Formation • Service Class
10/16	Gifts & Fruit of the Holy Spirit • LSS 33 Apologetics • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples Supplemental Teachings • LSS 29, 30, 31, 32
10/22	Intercessory Formation • Intercessory Class
10/29	Intro to Intercession • ME 35
11/19	Service Formation • Service Class
11/20	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33 Growth in Prayer/New Creation Realities • LSS 34 & 35 Healing & Deliverance • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING OCT. 8, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	5,842	159,332
Expenses	(3,327)	155,824
Surplus/(Deficit)	9,169	3,508

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Healing Prayer

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, go back into my memory as I sleep. Every hurt that has ever been done to me, heal that hurt. Every hurt that I have ever caused another person, heal that hurt.

All the relationships that have been damaged in my whole life that I am not aware of, heal those relationships. But, O Lord, if there is anything that I need to do, If I need to go to a person because he or she is still suffering from my hand, bring to my awareness that person. I choose to forgive, and I ask to be forgiven.

Remove whatever bitterness may be in my heart, Lord, and fill the empty spaces with your love. Amen.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 41

Bulletin Edition

October 22, 2010

NEWS



Who Knew Stewardship Could Be So Much Fun?

Our God is an **awesome** God! And last Saturday night, October 16th, over 430 members and friends of BLD-Newark came together to celebrate His many blessings at the annual Dinner-Dance fundraiser. The VFW in Manville was the site for one of the most well-attended functions of the year. The sponsoring class, ME 25, welcomed members from every ministry and class, from Solo Parents, many ME's, Golden Years, Singles and Youth as well as visitors from BLD Allentown. Many of the youngest members of the community also attended including one in a baby stroller. This year's theme, the Colors of Fall, was reflected in the table settings and decorations as well as in the colorful attire of the guests. And when all those colors filled the dance floor, it was a beautiful sight!

The evening held many special moments including a slide show, a prize give-away, and a lovely presentation by Brian Atienza and his dance partner Natalia. There were lots of laughs at the photo booth set up by MPW Media Group who donated their services to the fund-raising effort. The music and line dances that kept everyone on their feet and dancing the night away were provided by Ray and Susie Atienza of A's Entertainment DJ. In his closing remarks, Class Shepherd, Gerry Canlas introduced the members of ME 25 and thanked God for the overflow of guests and goodwill and grace. It is truly a blessing when so many people can celebrate and have fun without losing sight of the fact that it is the love of Christ which has brought all of us together and made us a community. Let's do it again next year!

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COUNSELS

THE NECESSITY OF HUMILITY

WORD: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we humbly acknowledge that we are sinners in need of God's mercy.

ORDER: Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful.

REFLECTION:

The Parable in today's Gospel is popularly known as that of the Pharisee and Tax Collector. However, it is not so much about these persons as it is about the disposition for prayer in any person. This parable is exclusive to Luke and is addressed, not to the Pharisees but to those who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with lack of respect". **"He who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word."** (Isaiah 66:2)

This could be a description of any self-righteous person. There is a great difference between being righteous and being self-righteous. The righteous person knows that he/she is dependent on God and can do nothing without God's help. The self-righteous person, on the other hand, is so filled with self importance and pride that he/she cannot see beyond his/her own nose. These self-righteous assume that God is dependent on them.

The defect of the Pharisee in the Parable is not that he gives thanks for what God has done for him. The defect is in his prideful arrogance for others. He contrasts himself without due consideration to morally objectionable people—the greedy, the dishonest, adulterers—but saves the tax collector for the end. His very position of prayer betrays his pride. He steps apart from the crowd, as if God could not notice him wherever he is. *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves. But the Lord redeems the life of his servants..."

(Psalm 34:19 & 23)

COMMUNITY *The Dwelling Place of God*

We find the Lord in different places and different times during our journey. In my particular case I had glimpses of Him on many occasions but it was when I joined the community after our Marriage Encounter weekend that I became more fully aware of His presence. My wife and I joined the community with a lot of reluctance because we felt it would be just another organization made up of people looking to increase their connections, a place where their achievements could be paraded and admired. To sacrifice our Friday evenings and to travel over an hour to Newark was not a very good incentive for us. There were 33 couples in our ME class and, for some unknown reason, we were appointed as class coordinators. We were given the task of encouraging our classmates to come and plan for the next ME that was scheduled in six months. Not wanting to disappoint the elders and to show that we were capable of meeting the challenge, we agreed to help; but we were planning to leave once the upcoming ME was over. Little did we know that our plan was not God's plan as slowly but surely the veil of doubt and mistrust was lifted as we got to know our classmates, our shepherds and the other members of the community. Over 16 years have passed since then. The Lord has given us many ups and downs, joys and pains yet we are still here because we believe that is His way of pruning us, removing our imperfections, and making us worthy to be called His disciples. We believe that He dwells in our community and in the heart of every member. Now when people from the outside ask me why we have stayed, I usually tell them what Jesus told the disciples of John the Baptist when they asked Him where He was staying – the Lord said "Come and See." Come and join us and see for yourself if you can find Jesus in our community. If you do not find Him, perhaps it is you who will bring Him to us.

From one district established in Newark, there are now over 25 in the United States, and we believe that this success was due to each member's willingness to be used by the Lord as an instrument. His Word assures us that the community is His dwelling place as we read in Ephesians 2:21-22, "***Through Him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred to the Lord, in Him you are also being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***"

To God Be The Glory!!!

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

"Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property."

(Luke 12:42-44)

God has provided us with knowledge, wisdom and strength to do good things for others. We are the faithful servants of the Lord because He has entrusted to us the task of sharing His goodwill with others through the gifts He bestowed upon us. We need to treasure these gifts and to protect and use them wisely. But we are sometimes unaware of the gifts we have. In an act of kindness toward others, we may not realize that we are actually sharing the gift that God has given to us. We are God's instrument to spread His kindness, His goodness, His love. But be careful not to exalt yourself when being praised by others; only God is to be exalted. Being a good and faithful steward is already within us; it is just a matter of sharing it and not keeping it to oneself. To serve our Lord through our brothers and sisters in Christ is a breath-taking experience that shows our gratitude to Him. This is how we give back the goodness He has given to us.

The task of being a steward, which God has entrusted to us, should not be taken lightly. Obedience is the word. In Luke 12:48 it says, "***the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly.***"

We are God's servants. We live our lives for Him in a way we think is righteous, but we sometimes do things not pleasing to Him and deserve a "severe beating" like the ignorant servant in the Gospel. But God is always merciful and kind toward us.

Originally, the word stewardship referred to the responsibility given to a servant to bring food and drink to the castle dining hall. As God's faithful servants, it is our responsibility to provide nourishment to others through the teachings of our Lord given to us in the Word of God. The drink that we give to others, the Blood of Christ, contains the power to cleanse our sins. Through sharing these gifts with others, we come to understand the true meaning of Christ's message to love one another as you love yourself. A good steward truly serves the Lord by serving others.

God is good all the time.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

The tax collector, however, simply stands at a distance and will not even raise his eyes to heaven. His bodily posture is itself a prayer. His plea to God, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner!" confirms this. He goes home, made just in God's eyes. The justice of God accepts the unjust and the ungodly. The parable summons us to a prayer of love and trust in God's mercy. It frees us from the need to tell God who is a sinner and who is not. It summons us to realize that, even when we are righteous, it is because of God's grace that we can be so.

Only those who can acknowledge their own weaknesses feel the need to turn to God in prayer with sentiments of humility. They know that any goodness they might exhibit is itself a gift from God. But those who stand before God and others with an attitude of "Look what I have made of myself" will hardly realize the need to ask for God's help in doing good. They presume that they can manage it by themselves. These are the ones who expect reward because they have been good. These are the ones who do not realize that their ability to be good and to do good is itself a reward from God.

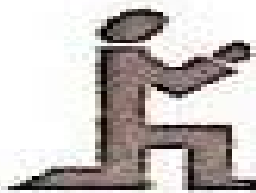
The Pharisee in today's Gospel very likely did live a life without greed, dishonesty, and adultery. He probably did fast and tithe. But he did not realize that it was the goodness of God that lifted him up so that he could act in this righteous manner. He believed instead, that it was his own goodness that raised him up above others. On the other hand, in order to gain a livelihood, the tax collector likely did extort money from taxpayers. He was a sinner, and knew he was a sinner. But, he also knew that only God could lift him up. It was the tax collector's humble demeanor that earned God's grace.

In the second reading, Paul resembles both the Pharisee and the tax collector. Like the Pharisee, he boasts of his accomplishments. He has competed well; he has finished the race; he has kept the faith; he has earned a crown of righteousness. Paul never denies the character of his commitment or the extent of his ministerial success. But, like the tax collector, he knows the source of his ability to accomplish these things. However, his attitude is radically different from that of the Pharisee in the Gospel for he knows all the good he has been able to do, to "fight the good fight" and to "run the race to the finish," has been made possible by God's help. He believes that it is the Lord, and not his own accomplishments, who will give to him the crown of righteousness.

In Christianity and in the following of Jesus, there is no room for arrogance. We are all limited human beings, with weaknesses that can trip us up if we are not vigilant. We are all poor *Continued on page 4*

APOLOGETICS

What is more proper Genuflection or Bowing?



It has long been proper to bend one's knee to the floor when in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The *General Instruction* (n. 233) requires the priest to genuflect after he elevates the Host at the Consecration, after he raises the chalice, and before Communion. The *GRIM* also says: "If there is a tabernacle with the Blessed Sacrament in the sanctuary, a genuflection is made before and after Mass and whenever anyone passes in front of the Blessed Sacrament."

There are also various times during the Mass when bows of the head and the body are appropriate (see *GRIM*, n.234), but these are separate from the times when genuflection is to be replaced by bowing. One obvious exception would be in the case of a priest who for physical reasons was unable to bend his knee to the floor.

If the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the sanctuary of your church, then it remains the custom to reverence the Real Presence with a genuflection at the beginning and end of Mass. If it is reserved in a space apart from the sanctuary, then it is appropriate to reverence the altar with a bow at the beginning and end of Mass. The genuflection reverences the Blessed Sacrament, not the altar itself.

Fr. Peter Stravinskis, in *The Catholic Answer Book*, offers some sound comments on this matter:

"Genuflection is a beautiful sign of our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in one Eucharist. If St. Paul says that 'at Jesus' name every knee must bend' (Phil. 2:10), how much more should that be so when one appears directly before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament?"

"Some liturgists have pressed to replace the genuflection with a bow. However, that is not the tradition of the West (although it is in the Eastern churches). In our age and culture, genuflection makes a particularly strong doctrinal statement; after all, people bow to one another all the time – one only bends the knee to God!" (p. 138).

Source: *Catholic Replies* by James J. Drummey

*Make the Covenant News
Part of Your Covenant Life*

COUNSEL (from page 3)

and lowly, in need of the protection and strength that come to us from God. We are all sinners, dependent on divine mercy. It is indeed foolish and vain to think that we are better than others. It does no good whatsoever to treat others with disrespect or disdain.

The last words of the Gospel reading are a warning to us all. They alert us to God's tendency to turn human considerations upside down. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled. Those who humble themselves will be exalted. Those who trust in their own righteousness will regard others with contempt. Those who regard others with contempt cannot bring themselves to rely on God's grace. Therefore, persons who exalt themselves over others and boast of their virtue before God will discover that they have cut themselves off from both. Persons who are aware of their need for grace and forgiveness will be unable to disrespect or despise other people.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be reconciled with your brothers and sisters.
2. Extend help to those in need, especially to those who do not deserve it.
3. Conduct an examination of conscience and avail yourselves of the sacrament of reconciliation.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Saturday. **Oct. 23 • Singles Ministry**
Contacts: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo 908.256.2622
arlenemanny@gmail.com • Cris/Ampy Escobinas

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/22	Intercessory Formation • Intercessory Class
10/29	Intro to Intercession • ME 35
11/19	Service Formation • Service Class
11/20	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33 Growth in Prayer/New Creation Realities • LSS 34 & 35 Healing & Deliverance • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING OCT. 15, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,949	163,281
Expenses	1,580	157,394
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,379	5,887

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

Thank you for your continued support!

BLD VISION & MISSION Vision

Community - We are a communion of families and a community of persons, called together as one people through a moment of encounter and a process of renewal, to a relationship of faith, hope and love with God.

Christian - We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, by our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and by our uniting compassion with one another.

Charismatic - We are blessed with personal gifts, spiritual and natural, innate or acquired, which we yield to the Word and Spirit.

Caring and Giving - We give freely and fully of ourselves and love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's kingdom.

Covenant Discipleship - Through our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, we commit as disciples to be a countersign to all that is at war with the teachings of our Lord, and to emerge victorious in living and sharing the values of our Christian faith.

Mission

The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
- Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
- Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
- Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
- Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.
- Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Contact: Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center,
Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo
singles@bldnewark.com

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

SAVE THE DATE

Community Retreat

Oct. 23 • 10am-5pm • Divine Mercy
We exhort you to make time and attend!

Holy Spirit, Come Concert

Dec. 4 • Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium
Two shows: 2-4 pm; 6:30-8:30 pm

The Cruzada Family & Friends will hold a concert to benefit *Divine Mercy Parish & Scholarship of Hope*



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 42

Bulletin Edition

October 29, 2010

Community Retreat

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

(John 1:14)

On Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010, about 120 faithful BLD disciples participated in our most spirit-filled Community Retreat, "Word Made Flesh", led by our retreat master, Fr. Mike Semana of the World Hope Foundation. It was held in the Divine Mercy Auditorium. The retreatants delved into thought-provoking questions posed by Fr. Mike as they broke into groups, sharing their personal reflections on their experiences in prayer and daily reflections on God's Word and how this has changed their lives. There were many profound, memorable sharings among the attendees. The retreatants were also treated with beautiful songs sang by Fr. Mike, which were his original compositions. The blessed event started at 10 a.m. and culminated with a joyful Eucharistic celebration which ended at 6 p.m. For all who attended, we can truly say, "We have seen the glory of the Lord" for our hearts have once again been touched in a special way!

JOHN 6 CROSSING: God Answers Our Prayers

We just concluded our John 6 Crossing #11 last weekend at the scenic Liebenzell Retreat Center in Long Valley, New Jersey, a spot of paradise in the middle of NJ. Three weeks before the event, we were worried that we only had 8 candidates for the retreat. We requested prayers from the community and alas, a day before the event we had 22 candidates! But God relentlessly added 5 more (walk-ins) during the registration with a total of 27, half of them non-BLD!!! What an awesome God we have! I always believed that He would never forsake us but constantly tested us for our patience and perseverance in serving our community. *Continued on page 3*

COUNSELS

Making Haste To Jesus

WORD: Wis 11:22-12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13, 14; 2 Thes 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10

THEME: We have unwavering faith when we repair the damage caused by our sins.

ORDER: Like Zacchaeus, respond to God's call to deeper conversion

REFLECTION:

The gospel narrative of St. Luke in this Sunday's readings reminds me of my childhood days in my home town. I could remember during parades and processions, my father would carry me on his shoulders so I would have a good view of the event. When I became older I still could not see much of the parade or procession because my height did not progress much as did my age, but I felt too old to still ask my father to perch me on his shoulders. So I would climb a tree strategically located by the roadside so I could have a panoramic view of whatever was passing by and a preview of what else would come next.

Zacchaeus used the same approach to get a closer view of Jesus passing by because he was also small in stature. But his smallness was not just physical. He was a publican, a chief tax collector who extorted money from taxpayers for himself. He was a corrupt man that people hated, especially the Pharisees. So he also was avoiding the crowd. His goal at first was just to see Jesus. But Jesus had other plans for Zacchaeus that day! Jesus stopped, looked up to him and gave him all the importance when he called: "**Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.**" (Lk. 19:5)

Authors of many commentary books believed that Zacchaeus did not climb *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"The Lord supports all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down." (Ps 145:14)

Commandment With A Promise

“Children obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right. Honor your father and mother. This is the first commandment with a promise, that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.” (Eph 6:1-3)

Have you ever been told to listen to your parents by your grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and other relatives? They told you if you do so it will be good for you? And you went on with life wondering what they meant by that? I never really understood the meaning of that until I read the scriptures taken from Ephesians 6:1-3. I suddenly had a deeper understanding why I should respect and obey my parents. Not only will it benefit me by having a long and healthy life but will also bring me closer to my Heavenly Father. Growing up I did not really spend much time with my parents but instead grew up under the care of my grandparents. Seeing how my aunts and uncles respected and obeyed their parents made me realize over the years that no matter who is there caring for you, you should give them the respect that you would give your parents. We weren't a perfect family we had fights and misunderstandings but at the end of the day I saw how they respected their parents and still obeyed them no matter what.

Growing up I was very independent and sometimes stubborn in following my parents with curfews, watching television, phone calls, etc and never understood why they wanted me to stop having fun. As I grew older and saw my younger cousins grow up and saw how they too, reacted the same way I began to realize that my parents was just telling me to do those things for my own good because our parents only want the best for us. We shall see the promise of God given to those who faithfully obey. I thank God for giving me parents and my beloved family that taught me how to be a respectful young woman. With God's grace, He continues to shower me with patience, kindness, understanding and all the blessings that come with it. We may not realize early in our lives but this is the life God has planned for us and He wants us to do things according to His wonderful and magnificent plan. Family is the most important thing to have on this earth besides God and our faith. The Lord's blessings are mighty and bountiful and our brothers and sisters in Christ are a living testimony that God has many promises for us as we live by His words and in His light.

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

A Youth's Stewardship Prayer

There's a chance you may not know this, but every Friday, the Youth in BLD make a love offering during their worship. From their meager resources, they give what they can. On a recent Friday, the prayer that preceded it spoke volumes about stewardship. Oftentimes there is so much we can learn from our children: ***“When He looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and He noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, ‘I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.’”*** (Luke 21:1-4) I think it's hilarious sometimes, the way God just provides for you. It's amazing how much He really cares for the world. God just really has a big heart.

The way God provides for me sometimes makes me smile till my cheeks hurt. There was a day that I just had a bad morning. I had a fine due to a teacher but had an empty wallet, I lost my chemistry homework somewhere in the school and had only an hour to find it, and I was just really hungry with no packed lunch.

That day though, God created miracles: my teacher told me in the afternoon that the fine was cancelled because the book that was falling apart wasn't even mine; a wonderful friend of mine found my chemistry homework in the library underneath her books; and I found twenty dollars in front of my locker. I then used the ten dollars to buy me sushi and I decided to give the rest to God! Talk about the best afternoon ever!

No one else can make my day better like Him. He fixes my mistakes and can really overwhelm me with His love. He definitely deserves more than ten dollars. I doubt even one million would suffice. But that and my life is really all I could offer up to Him, which doesn't even meet a fraction of what He deserves.

Think about it, how many times have you or I been graced by God's love and miracles. How many of us gave God the same amount back?

You have two hands and one heart. Isn't that enough to be grateful for? Go, go dig in your wallet, your purse, your man-bag, your pockets for that dollar or five, or that quarter or dime. Got nothing? That's okay. Just give Him the praise He deserves. Nothing we give can ever be enough, but at least we could say we gave back all that we could. And that would make God smile till His cheeks hurt, too.

COUNSEL (from page 1)

the sycamore tree because a crowd had gathered but because he wanted more than anything to see Jesus for himself. The chief tax collectors were a relatively small group who doubtless met together to talk about Jesus - the friend of publicans and sinners. Zacchaeus must also have heard about Jesus' great teachings, amazing miracles, the healing of the sick and the possessed, His having raised the dead back to life and, most especially, his power to transform lives. The sinful Zacchaeus felt the need for spiritual renewal and he thought Jesus might be the answer to his need.

Given Jesus' openness and friendliness in addressing him, Zacchaeus "**came down quickly and received Him with joy.**" (Lk 19:6) He came down immediately to meet with Jesus. He abandoned his self-sufficiency, self-satisfaction and self-reliance and humbly asked for help. He was full of joy that Jesus had accepted him! He did not foresee his wanting to see Jesus would lead him to a changed life but he showed us the reaction of every sinner saved by grace. And why wouldn't Zacchaeus be happy the way Jesus treated him! He called him by his name and invited Himself at this outcast's home. So while others were still grumbling why Jesus would stay in the house of a sinner, Zacchaeus was already welcoming Jesus with joy.

Jesus came to seek the lost. (Lk 19:10). He came to this world so that we may have life and live that life abundantly (Jn 10:10). But Jesus makes sure He does not force Himself on us. Rather, He continues to invite us to turn our back to sin, renounce them and come back to the Father's fold through Him. In Rev. 3:19-20 He says: "**Those whom I love I reprove and chastise. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.**" Jesus was full of patient hope in what God could do in the life of a repentant sinner. He was not discouraged by Zacchaeus' life of sin. And Zacchaeus demonstrated his true conversion by his deeds, and in his joy he gave half of his property to the poor. (Lk 19:8)

All of us in this community have responded to God's call by opening the doors of our hearts to His forgiving and abiding love. Yes, we demonstrated joy when He found us from the world and into the renewal programs of BLD through its teachings, worships, immersion in Word and mission work, service in our parishes and the sacraments. But after some years of being in community, having been committed and covenanted disciples, do we still have that zeal to serve God by going out of our way to invite others to enter our encounter programs and Life in the Spirit seminars? Do we still have the fire to shepherd others (as LSS shepherd or Class Shepherd), to spread the Gospel to all "until the ends of Samaria? Like Zacchaeus, **Continued on page 4**

All Saints Day

Celebrated on the first of November, All Saints Day is a holy day of obligation in the Roman Catholic Church that is dedicated to honor all of the saints. Growing up, I was always told to go to church on holy days of obligation, including this one. If not, I was committing a sin. However, personally growing up in a religious community showed and taught me that this day is more than just going to church and praying to the saints. It's a true honor to have these saints, known or unknown, who watch over me every day of my life. This one day does not give a sufficient amount of thanks to them. Also known as the Solemnity of All Saints, this day is devoted to praying to the saints. This day commemorates all those who have obtained beatific vision in Heaven. From a youth's point of view, it's a day where we can send prayer requests to a specific saint, or just to all of them in general, asking for their personal guidance. In 1 John 3: 2-3, it says, "**Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.**" To me, this means that we don't know what we'll become, but no matter what, we're creations of God. No matter where we end up, we should always strive to be like him, just as the saints have done. Once we take down our own crosses, we are able to purify ourselves to become Christ-like.

Those who have done that are those who have become saints. These people were able to get past their own sins, their own trials and tribulations, and they were able to become a vision of God. Just as these holy people have done, we, as Christians, should be able to do the same.

JOHN 6: God Answers Our Prayers

From Fr. Dave & Fr. Paul, the youth moderators, sharers, praise, Youth and John6 auxilies who worked hard and focused patiently with prayers, songs, sharing, activities and games to help open the candidates' heart, mind and soul, to re-acquaint and reunite the loose bonds from our Father with the help of the Holy Spirit. We were also blessed to have Long Island and Washington DC with us during the retreat. We are very thankful to our BLD community members, who will remain nameless, who were providing support and help during the weekend, giving up their precious time, to choose and serve our Lord that made the Crossings #11 retreat a spirit-filled success.

We welcome the new J6 Crossings# 11 graduates: Nicole, Donald, Chris, Nico, Sean, Franco, Kelly, Adrian, Kevin, Nadine, John, Joe, Dana, Aly, Pristine, Chel, Justine, Gian, Sophie, Marc, Greg, Izzy, Ivan, Bianca, Melissa, Dong and Georgette. Welcome to our beloved BLD community and may God bless you always!!!

COUNSEL (from page 1)

does our conversion of hearts and serving God still give us joy? Like Zacchaeus, do we show remorse and repentance for our sins and even repair our wrongdoing? And, like Jesus, do we walk the extra mile to seek and save the lost so that they may also receive the abundant life that Jesus offers?

When we see sin in ourselves or in the world, our response can be one of despair and hopelessness. But God's heart is full of desire to grant forgiveness and to change us. Today we are encouraged to receive the salvation Jesus is bringing. As we yield to Him with joy, our deeds of mercy are no longer mere duties performed to please a distant God. Instead these acts of love bear witness to the world that Christ is present in our hearts.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Recognize, repent for, and repair our wrongdoing.
2. Seek and save the lost

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Nov. 12 after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Saturday. Volunteers are needed.

Nov. 13 • Mark 10 • Contacts: Mark 10 Ministry @
mark10@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet Chong
732.356.9056

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark
Every 4th Saturday. Nov. 27 • ME #25

Contacts: Gerry/Dimple Canlas 201-693-6119
gcanlas@optonline.net • Ramie/Emmie Espina

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410.676.6000

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

[http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm](http://www.bldnewark.net/Website%20Files/treasury_4.htm)

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

BLD-Newark Writing Challenge

Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450-word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aspirants' Retreat

Nov. 5-7 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Jovy /Emily Lucero 732-207-9422
Ed/Eydie Unay 973-427-9673 or 973-222-1342

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ

Contacts: Paby/Pauline Ibarolla @ 201.523.0878
Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center,
Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo
singles@bldnewark.com

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays & wedding anniversaries this week!

TEACHING CALENDAR

10/29 Intro to Intercession • ME 35

11/19 Service Formation • Service Class

11/20 Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33
Growth in Prayer/New Creation Realities •
LSS 34 & 35
Healing & Deliverance • LSS 29, 30 &
Covenanted Disciples

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING SEPT. 3, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	10,064	173,345
Expenses	1,813	159,207
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,251	14,318

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN SEMINAR

Nov. 27 • 9-1pm • Divine Mercy School Room 205

Holy Spirit, Come Concert

Dec. 4 • Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Two shows: 2-4 pm; 6:30-8:30 pm

The Cruzada family & friends will hold a concert to benefit *Divine Mercy Parish & Scholarship of Hope*

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Christmas Mass

Dec. 17 • Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ



Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 43

Bulletin Edition

November 5, 2010

NEWS

God Is Attracted to Lost Souls, Says Pontiff

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 31, 2010 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)). Benedict XVI is affirming that God wants to save all souls, and is especially attracted to those that are lost.

The Pope stated this today in an address before praying the midday Angelus together with those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"God excludes no one, neither the poor nor the rich," he said.

The Pontiff continued, "God does not let himself be conditioned by our human prejudices, but sees in everyone a soul to save and is especially attracted to those who are judged as lost and who think themselves so."

"Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God, has demonstrated this immense mercy, which takes nothing away from the gravity of sin, but aims always at saving the sinner, at offering him the possibility of redemption, of starting over from the beginning, of converting," the Holy Father affirmed.

Speaking about the Gospel story of Zacchaeus, Benedict XVI noted the example of God's mercy.

"When Jesus was passing through Jericho and stopped at the house of Zacchaeus, he caused a major scandal," the Pope said. "The Lord, however, knew exactly what he was doing."

"He wanted, so to speak, to gamble, and he won the bet: Zacchaeus, deeply moved by Jesus' visit, decides to change his life, and promises to restore four times what he had stolen," the Pontiff recalled.

Jesus "did not condemn him but he met his desire for salvation," the Holy Father concluded. "Let us pray to the Virgin Mary, perfect model of communion with Jesus, to be renewed by his love, and to show his mercy to others."

COUNSELS

TRANSCENDING OUR SUFFERINGS

THEME We believe in the God of the living when we are able to transcend our sufferings.

WORD: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14; Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15; 2 Thes 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38

ORDER "*Direct your heart to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.*" (2 Thes 3:5)

REFLECTION:

Many of us think that life here on earth should be a bed of roses; that we were placed here on earth to enjoy the bounties and pleasures of the earth. We just want to count our blessings; especially now that we are intent in following Jesus Christ. But when we are subjected to inconvenience, when we suffer set-backs and experience any kind of lack, or when we or someone close to us suffer misfortune or serious disease, we complain that Jesus does not treat us well. 1 Cor 15:19 says: "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all."

We are inclined to think that our greatest happiness, our most authentic good and longings for perfect happiness are only possible through our earthly existence. We fail to keep a true perspective, that the physical world in which we live, what we see, and what we experience on earth are but a very small part of the complete reality.

That is the reason why when we suffer and carry our cross, we grumble that life is not fair to us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that suffering is a consequence of original sin (CCC 1521).

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"The Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one." (2 Thes 3:3)

One Thing I Ask

“of the Lord,” prayed King David, *“I seek: To dwell in the Lord’s house all the days of my life, to gaze on the Lord’s beauty, to visit His temple.”*
(Ps 27:4)

Don’t we all? As we are renewed in Christ in baptism, our fervent desire is be in the presence of the Lord, glorify Him, thank Him, and gaze upon His beauty and the splendor of His kingdom. God’s dwelling place is in us by virtue of His Spirit in us. The vision of seraphims, cherubims, all other angels and saints singing God’s praises of thanksgiving, is beauty enough to make us want to be in God’s kingdom. No worries, no stress, no heartaches, no pain. Only joy, peace and love abound “all the days of our lives.” What more can we possibly want?

Historians credited King David as the composer of the majority of the Psalms, including Psalm 27. He expressed how he felt as a leader, from the joys of God’s victories, to deep contrition for his sins and shortcomings, anger over injustice and lack of vision, and sadness over his weaknesses and lack of understanding. In Chapter 27, King David juxtaposition two contrasting emotions: joy in victory, and sorrow in death of his son, Absalom, who commandeer rebellion against him, his own father. How can he savor the victory and at the same time mourn Absalom’s death? Not an easy situation.

As in sports or competition, there are winners and losers. Laurels to the victors; agony to the vanquished. We rejoice with the victor and cry with the defeated. And how about in times of war? The victor savors the “spoils of war”: the lands, resources, properties, but more often, the citizens’ lives in enslavement. Isn’t this the case in real life? This is the life King David does not want for himself and his people. He longs God’s presence in his life and builds a Temple for Him. *“Hear my voice, Lord when I call; have mercy on me and answer me, ‘come’, says my heart, ‘seek God’s face; Your face, Lord, do I seek.”* (Ps 27B:7-8)

As we draw closer to the end of our life’s journey, we seek only Him and His kingdom. So to be better prepared, we must be mindful to do good and follow God’s command. We must always express gratefulness to the Lord for all the battles we win, for the trials we overcome, for the downs to reach our goals and all the many blessings we get every single day of our life. And we need not ask for anything more, for to be with Him is our goal in life.

To God Be The Glory!!!

God’s Unfailing Love

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:8)

The restrained chaos of ER is as close as you can get to heaven or hell, agony or ecstasy, life or death. But miracles happen, and this story is one.

On August 3, 2010 at 11:05 AM, paramedics wheeled a 61 year old man to the ER, where I was on duty as primary designated nurse. The patient complained of chest pain, dizziness, extreme weakness; he has very low BP, was alert but diaphoretic and ashen. All attempts at resuscitation failed to increase patient’s BP and heart rate; the patient became unconscious. Twenty minutes later his heart ceased beating. Aggressive resuscitation procedures did not change the patient’s condition. At 12:14 PM the attending physician pronounced him dead. This is not the first time I have seen death in the ER. It is always a mournful situation.

With the ventilator disconnected, we began to prep the body for post mortem. I was about to unplug the IV when the other nurse noticed fine movements of the patient’s neck and abdomen. The ET-Tube showed condensation, a sign of breath; however, vital signs remained flat. I focused light in his eyes; there was a tiny reaction of his retinas. Fear and doubt seized us. We notified the ED physician of our observations but he thinks the medications caused the movements and will cease as they wear off. Under vague situations, the doctor called for a modified code. A cardiologist was consulted for second opinion. We notified the patient’s family and sought a priest to perform the last sacrament. A priest was unavailable. Unsure if the patient was in fact dead, I prayed perusing Padre Pio’s prayer card: “May the Lord bless you, look upon you, turn His face to you and grant you His mercy and peace.”

Having made the same observations as we had, the cardiologist ordered Dopamine and Levophed drips. Miraculously, within 5 minutes of the drips, the monitors signaled uneven lines, BP picking up at 58/21, some heart rhythm, less ashen face – all signs of life. I felt goose bumps and hot sensation. God’s merciful love is happening before my eyes! At 2:50 pm, the patient was wheeled out the ER to the Cardiac Cath Lab/CCU for emergency catherization. Unsure if the patient could hear me, I softly told him to stay strong because God is with him. Both Cath team and the ED doctor were less than hopeful because the patient’s condition remained unstable.

Continued on page 4

COUNSEL (from page 1)

Suffering comes in many forms: financial worries, the daily pressures of our jobs, heavy traffic, lack of understanding and compassion from our loved ones, illness, physical handicap, pain, poverty, malicious accusations by others; injustice, and so many other causes of suffering and distress. Yet our faith in Jesus can transform all these. Amidst all our sufferings, we need to meditate on how Jesus suffered for the love of us. Though He fed thousands of people, He suffered hunger. He experienced exhaustion and pain. He was born in a stable and had no place to rest His weary head. He tasted every form of rejection, including indifference to His teachings, ingratitude for His miracles, the betrayal of friends and slander by the authorities who passed judgment on Him and condemned Him to a painful death on the cross.

And yet we never hesitate to complain when we suffer; we do not want to suffer. As a result, we compromise and yield to sin just to escape suffering. St. Paul says: ***“In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.”*** (Heb 12:4) The first reading demonstrates the unwavering faith of seven brothers who suffer cruel deaths rather than sin against God.

In the second reading, St. Paul exhorts us to constantly seek our Father who loves and cares for us that, through Jesus Christ, He may comfort us and grant us eternal consolation. The Gospel assures us that our earthly sufferings are temporary and that after this valley of tears and sufferings, we will be like angels, no longer be subject to sufferings and earthly death. We will reign in heaven with Jesus Christ.

When we accept our suffering and offer them to our Lord, they can produce peace and serenity, and purify our sinful past. By uniting our sufferings with that of Christ we earn redeeming grace for the sins of our brothers and sisters. We will be able to transcend our sufferings and receive the Promise of the Week: ***“The Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.”*** (2 Thes 3:3)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Focus on the life beyond by living a life on earth with God always in our hearts and in our minds.
2. Pray so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified.

May the blessings and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

FR. PAUL SPEAKS

At this time of the year the liturgy and even all of nature seem to be focused on the negative. The days are getting darker; standard time returns. The feasts of All saints and All Souls remind us of the fragility of life. It seems that the church wants us to be realists, i.e. that some day we will all die. Does this a negative aspect of our Christian faith minimize the “good news” of our Christian proclamation? I believe on the contrary that it can deepen it. Part of Christian teaching goes by the fancy term of “eschatology” or the “last things”. Part of the creed reminds us that Jesus died and descended into “hell”. This can be confusing and upsetting for some. But “hell” in this context refers to the abode of the dead. In other words Jesus really died. His resurrection from the dead is the center of the good news of the gospel. Death gives way to life. Darkness gives way to light. After a dark winter there is always the return of the bright Spring.

In addition to our renewed faith and hope in the Resurrection, the liturgies of All Saints and All souls remind us of our oneness with those who have gone before us. The intimacies we developed here on earth do not go away when we die. In one sense they become stronger, because our relationship with them is accomplished through our relationship with Jesus, not through physical sight or touch that connected us to them on this side of eternity. All this depends upon our “faith perception”. You can say that the certitude of faith is more certain than the certitude of our human reasoning, even though both are objectively true. I know, for instance, that the teachings of the church that we find in the creed are given to us by God’s revelation. The mathematical truths that we learn in school are true because of common sense, and the witness of our reasoning ability. How often, however, have we been deceived by what we thought was so obvious!

During these darkening days of winter look how society increases the use of light. Christmas lights begin to appear even before halloween (which by the way means “holy evening preparation for All Saints day”). If we don’t like the dark we should be on our guard not to be seduced by the darkness of sin, a much worse catastrophe than a few winter months of physical darkness. Jesus tells us in the gospel of John that he came into the world as its light so that we could see through the darkness of sin and suffering, the light of eternal joy.

Make the Covenant News
Part of Your Covenant Life

God's Unfailing Love (from page 2)

At the end of my shift, I stopped by the CCU to visit the patient. I noted that the cardiac monitor showed good heart rhythm and vital signs; peace and joy descended on me. God Almighty, he is alive! It is a miracle! Science cannot explain it; the doctor had a hard time accepting it. The truth is the patient who was "dead" came back to life. It was not magic. It was God's handiwork. In the face of death, I allowed God to be in control. It was His plan. The patient, himself, remembered passing out, and physically gone, but his soul/spirit remained with him.

On August 12, 2010 the patient was discharged, physically strong, spiritually stronger. Any miracle is heaven, it is ecstasy, it is life! "...*just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in the newness of life.*" (Rom 6:4)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Marriage Encounter #36

Nov. 12-14 • Radisson Hotel, Carteret, NJ
Contacts: Paby/Pauline Ibarolla @ 201.523.0878
Gary/Mil Camacho @ mla@bldnewark.com

Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center,
Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo
singles@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055

Every 2nd Saturday. Volunteers are needed.

Nov. 13 • Mark 10 • Contacts Mark 10 Ministry @
mark10@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet Chong
732.356.9056

TEACHING CALENDAR

11/19 Service Formation • Service Class
11/20 Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33
Growth in Prayer/New Creation Realities •
LSS 34 & 35
Healing & Deliverance • LSS 29, 30 &
Covenanted Disciples

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING OCT. 29, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,165	175,510
Expenses	3,750	162,957
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,585)	12,533

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

Thank you for your continued support!

BLD COMMUNITY COVENANT

1. We shall surrender ourselves totally to God the Father, to Christ the Son of God, and to the Holy Spirit of God; and we believe that God is the source of all authority. We humbly offer ourselves in submission and servanthood to God's authority as represented by the Catholic Church in the persons of the Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church. We submit to the ecclesial authority of the bishop of our Diocese and the diocesan Spiritual Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In the Covenant Community of Bukas-Loob sa Diyos, we commit ourselves to the pastoral authority of our Spiritual Director and of those who constitute or represent the Community Council of servant Leaders.
2. We shall nourish our spiritual lives by opening to God through individual, conjugal and family daily prayers; and we will up build the Community through intercessory prayer.
3. We shall read, study, and live the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and in other spiritual readings, and we shall regularly share our knowledge and experience in the Word with other members of the Community at least once a week at our designated Word Sharing Circles.
4. We shall regularly receive the Sacrament of our Faith, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and bear witness to the power of God's grace in our lives.
5. We shall faithfully pray and worship in unity and fellowship as one Community at least once each week.
6. We shall serve in at least one Community Mission or Ministry, guided by the direction of the Council of Servant Leaders through the appointed Pastoral Head.
7. We shall actively assist in ministering to the spiritual, personal, and material needs of other members of the Community, and of the other members of the Body of Christ in a spirit of self-giving love.
8. We shall support the Community's Missions and Ministries with regular tithes and love offerings given according to our true means and out of the fullness of our hearts.

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Spirit, Come Concert

Dec. 4 • Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Two shows: 2-4 pm; 6:30-8:30 pm

The Cruzada Family & Friends will hold a concert to benefit *Divine Mercy Parish & Scholarship of Hope*

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Christmas Mass

Dec. 17 • Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

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http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 44

Bulletin Edition

November 12, 2010

NEWS

Aspiring Disciples

November 5-7, 2010 will be forever ingrained in our minds and hearts as 20 committed members of our BLD community responded to the summons of the Holy Spirit and came to the Aspirants' Retreat held at the Radisson Hotel in Carteret.

The Retreat was very powerful from beginning to end as Fr. Michael Fugee from the Archdiocese of Newark gave 3 rounds of anointing to everyone. Fr. Michael emphasized Luke 16:13, *"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other."* Fr Paul Lehman also came and shared his wisdom on our community life and the rewards of being a disciple. The presence and support of all our DCS and ECSL Formation Stewards, Ed & Malou Malay, were greatly appreciated

Sharers from our brothers and sisters in the community opened up and surrendered themselves as they shared their experiences on: Discipleship - Pinky Calingo, Cost of Discipleship - Frank Venadas, Test of True Discipleship - Emil Canlas, Community - Miriam Abes, Rewards of Discipleship - Jovy Lucero.

The candidates who professed the renewal of their covenant to know, love and follow the Lord are: Elmer & Rowena Agapito; Emily & Jules Laput; Cirilo & Mavil Loreto; Frank & Tess Mercado; Dina & Ronald Pangilinan; Danny & Maeann Sta Ana; Francis & Rebecca Soquite; Alma & Rod Soriano; John & Jiji Talavera and Mario & Mila Union. They felt rejuvenated and eager to immerse themselves in the Word of the Lord and live the holy work of evangelization and service.



COUNSELS

Eternal Life Belongs to Those Who Believe

THEME: We believe in the God of the living when we live lives of patient endurance

WORD: Eternal life belongs to those who believe in the God of the living.

ORDER: Secure your lives by your perseverance.

REFLECTION:

This Sunday's Gospel narrates: while people were marveling at the beauty and grandeur of the temple, Jesus reminds them, *"All that you see here - the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."* (Lk 21:6)

This reminder of the destruction of the temple comes across only as a prelude. As long as the temple stands, it is the Father's house that must be kept clean (from vendors and moneychangers) for the sake of prayer. Jesus is not too concerned about the stone temple or cathedrals and their historic preservation. What matters to Him is the temple of His body which is the Church. As members of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church founded by Jesus Christ Himself we must faithfully adhere to her Magisterium. Our Lord exhorts us to tie up our actions to His teachings. We have the responsibility to search the scripture and know the Word of God as fully as we are capable of learning, for only through the knowledge of the Word will we be able to walk in faith with Him.

Jesus further reminds us that *"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky."* (Lk. 21:10-11) These apocalyptic scenarios are frightening. As true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ we should look toward the end of time with anticipation and joy, because the end times will mark the fulfillment of *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays." (Mal 3:20)

HOW DO WE MEASURE FAITH?

“Increase our faith” (Lk 17:5)

For most of us in the community, joining BLD marked an almost radical turning point in our lives. I too recall how I was - not just a “cafeteria Catholic” - I was a “just-in-case Catholic” - just in case Jesus was God, okay, I’d go to Sunday mass. But did I really believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Did I believe that He really walked the earth, let alone, died for me?

In Luke 17:5, the Apostles said to Jesus, **“Increase our faith.”** It is interesting to note that this occurs more than two-thirds of the way through the gospel. The apostles said this, even after they had seen miracles – people being raised from the dead, the feeding of the five thousand, the calming of the sea, numerous healings and exorcisms. They said this even after Christ’s transfiguration, when God Himself declared that **“This is my chosen Son; listen to Him!”** (Lk 9:35)

And yet it seemed that Jesus’s hyperbolic answer was that their faith was still smaller than a tiny mustard seed. Eventually, did not these same apostles still need the Holy Spirit?

Like most BLD members, I marvel at how different my faith now is, and I now answer my own questions about Him with a resounding YES. Now, I often think of God and Jesus, and the conclusion I come up with is that the logic of God’s Word, and Jesus’s genius, are so very irrefutable. In Hebrews 11:1, Faith is defined as **“the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”** Herein lies that Truth that sets us free – for believing in Christ grants us the realization of what we hope for – that with Him, no matter what the situation is, always, better things will come. How true this is and yet, sometimes, how difficult it is to remember...

Exactly how much faith do I have now? Since I go to BLD for Friday worship, am I no longer a “cafeteria Catholic”? But do I demonstrate faith through my works? Can I feel passionate about Christ everyday?

I don’t really know the measure of my faith, but it seems that the answer is that, wherever we are in our journey, there will always be enormous room for faith to grow. And grow it must, for everyday, there will always be more praise to proclaim, more help to offer, more forgiveness to seek, more love to share. And through all of these, like the Apostles, I must recognize that I need the Holy Spirit, for only with Him are things possible. And though our faith may not be close to the size of the tiny mustard seed - if even just a little bit, even just a little bit at a time - imagine what can happen when God takes that and multiplies it.

They Came to Believe

“He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, ‘Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.’ His disciples recalled the words of scripture, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’” (Jn 2:15-17)

The Gospel of John places this story as Jesus’s ministry was just beginning. Can you imagine how the disciples must have felt? Drawn so compellingly to Jesus in the days following His baptism in the Jordan River, they had just witnessed His first miracle - how the wine flowed freely at His command at the wedding at Cana. As they entered the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, the disciples would not have been surprised to see money changers and merchants. Business was always brisk during holy days and festivals. Imagine their amazement as Jesus gathered up some cords and began twisting them into a whip. St. John doesn’t tell us whether they joined Him as he upset tables and chased out the animals or whether they stood there, wide-eyed, mouths open, amazed at His actions. There must have been lots of yelling and confusion but they could hear His reply to the Jews who questioned His authority. **“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”** (Jn 2:19) This was not what they had expected at all, but the gospel writer makes it clear that the disciples were already beginning to “get it,” to understand what Jesus was all about. **“His disciples recalled the words of scripture, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’”** (Jn 2:17)

The readings for the Mass demonstrate the connection between the Old Testament and the New. We can clearly see how the words and actions of Christ were foretold by the prophets, and how the Law of Moses gave way to Jesus’s Commandment of Love. It’s laid out so that we can “get it” too. The work has been done; what remains for us is to believe.

Two more Passovers would come and go before the first disciples would see the fulfillment of Jesus’s promise to “raise up” the temple, but the impression of that day and of His words remained with them. **“Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.”** (Jn 2:22). They remembered what He said; they came to believe, and through the Holy Spirit acting through them, they changed the world. To God be the glory.

Shepherd's Voice: "What Could Have?"

One of the saddest phrases a tongue could say or a pen could write is "What could have?" What could have happened if I did not smoke that first cigarette? What could have happened if we did not say yes to the "come and see" invite to our Marriage Encounters, days, months, or years back?

In the Gospel of Luke, 17:1-6, Jesus continues to give His disciples every advantage for success on the journey of faith. To achieve this, He urges them to always seize the initiative when it comes to helping others draw closer to God. One way of doing this is by avoiding anything that may influence others towards the wrong path. ***"It would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea"*** (Mt 18:6) Although Jesus is aware of our humanness, He has strong words for those who influence others to sin, as, for example, one who would use their sexuality to lead others to sin.

In the same token, even before we said "yes" to the Marriage Encounter, God had already started His work on us. Like the disciples, He gives us the grace to increase our faith. Through the BLD Marriage Encounter, we are given the advantage in our faith journey. However what God is giving is not a one-way street. He gives us the tools to succeed but we have to do our part. Although Jesus recognized our humanness (that we may sometimes fall to sin) we must always remember His stern warning that it is better to be cut off than to influence others to sin.

So, let us pray unceasingly always, to increase our faith take advantage of the teachings, retreats, seminars and opportunities to serve others in order to know Jesus more and have a deeper relationship with Him, so He may increase in our lives as we decrease.

Let us be like Zacchaeus, who made a fool of himself for Jesus. He was the chief tax collector and must have been well dressed at the time when his desire to answer the call of Jesus came. Yet he ran and climbed the sycamore tree just to see Jesus. It is okay to make a fool of oneself for the love of Jesus. It is okay to make a fool of oneself for love of neighbor. When we keep ourselves busy making fools of ourselves for love of God, all occasions of sin and leading others to sin are avoided. Let us make use of what God has provided for us so as not say or write one day, "what could have been."



COUNSEL (from page 1)

everything that every true believer longs for, union with God and eternal glory. The end times will be the distinguishing point between the wicked, who are to be stubble, and the righteous, who shine like the sun.

The gospel also presents us with the serious fact that not only is there life beyond this existence, but that suffering is a necessary component of reaching it. Jesus exhorts us, **"I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."** (Jn 16:33)

Faith as a gift of God is theological virtue infused by Him, by which we believe in Him and believe all that He has said and revealed to us, because He is truth itself. By faith we freely commit and trust our entire self to God, and for this reason we seek to know and live our lives of patient endurance as our Lord Jesus Christ did. As we live in perilous times we will face all kinds of trials and persecutions, as our Lord foretells **"they will seize and persecute you ... because of my name. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death."** (Lk 21:12, 16) Our present day persecution is not so much of religious practices, nor punishment because of one's conviction, but rather, that of oppression in matters of conscience.

When we persevere in every trial that comes our way, our faith is tested and grows stronger, which not only prepares us for substantial trials and tribulations, but also makes us spiritually complete. As St. James counsels us, **"Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."** (James 1:2-4)

St. Paul declares in the second reading, **"in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked"** (2 Thes 3:8), that as an apostle of Christ he had to carry and bear his cross daily. We, as present day disciples of Christ, to endure the onslaught of a corrupt and wicked world full of inequity, we need to work, and work like St. Paul worked - in both church and the world. And if we persevere, to work hopefully for Christ and work faithfully in Christ, we will triumph in Christ, for He promised, **"By your perseverance you will secure your lives"** (Lk 21:19), and, **"But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays."** (Mal 3:20).

DIRECTION:

Present yourself as a true witness for Christ.

An Evening with Gawad Kalinga and Tony Meloto

On November 2, 2010, representatives of several BLD districts, namely: Rockville Center, Trenton, Rockland, & Newark, joined our brethren from BLD-Global GK and Fr. Paul Lehman in welcoming to our community, Tony Meloto, and Northeast America GK coordinators Sonny and Beth Ramirez.

The evening started with a sumptuous dinner, followed by a brief fellowship with our brethren from GK. Richard dela Fuente and Bong Encarnacion, shared some history of the beginnings of the BLD-GK partnership, remembering that it was Fr. Paul Lehman's sacerdotal anniversary that spawned it. There are now about 14 villages housing 400+ families in various parts of the Philippines: Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bicol, Quezon, Iloilo, Davao, and Cebu, to name a few.

Mr. Meloto thanked BLD, declaring that BLD has been "a big part of my life. I am with kindred spirits. What (BLD) has done is a gift to Christianity." He further added, "The work of God has to be inclusive - for everyone - to empower everyone. It is really about loving without borders and the cause is transcendent. It is the work of GOD. Our (GK) work is really honoring God...Fr. Paul, your BLD-GK has given us a model for others to follow. From that example we now have over 2,000 communities that have followed." Our brethren from BLD - Global GK, Kiko & Aida Josef, and Olive Zamora, also gave accounts of the transformation within the BLD - GK communities, borne from the ongoing joint labors of our BLD / GK brethren.



They shared the good news of how the catechetical program of BLD-GK has transformed families into basic ecclesial units - taking to heart Archbishop Lagdameo's challenge to: "*Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.*" (Lk 5:4)
Praise be to God!!!

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.
www.masstimes.org or call 410-676-6000

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Singles Encounter #25

Nov. 19-21 • Graymoor Spiritual Life Center,
Garrison, NY • Contact: Manny/Arlene Magalanzo
singles@bldnewark.com

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Saturday. Volunteers are needed.
Nov. 13 • Mark 10 • Contacts: Mark 10 Ministry
mark10@bldnewark.com • Audie/Vulet Chong
732-356-9056 • audie_chong@yahoo.com

Soup Kitchen

Missionary Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ
Every 4th Saturday. Nov. 27 • ME 25
Contacts: Gerry/Dimple Canlas 201-693-6119
gcanlas@optonline.net, scanlas@gmail.com •
Ramie/Emmie Espina • erespina@hotmail.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

- 11/19 Service Formation • Service Class
11/20 Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33
Growth in Prayer / New Creation Realities
• LSS 34 & 35
Healing & Deliverance
• LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 5, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,155	178,665
Expenses	7,433	170,390
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,278)	8,275

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Spirit, Come Concert

Dec. 4 • Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Two shows: 2-4 pm; 6:30-8:30 pm

The Cruzada Family & Friends
will hold a concert to benefit

Divine Mercy Parish & Scholarship of Hope

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Christmas Mass

Dec. 17 • Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012
is now open. Please submit your venue &
requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at
mtg7lra@aol.com.



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Volume 16 Issue 45

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November 19, 2010

NEWS

The Power Of God's Grace

With the power of God's grace, we had a victorious Marriage Encounter #36, as we are blessed with 11 couples and 2 priests responding to His call! The spirit-filled encounter was held at the Radisson Carteret Hotel from November 13 to 15, 2010. The pastoral team included Father Dave Sison, assisted by Father Chris Panlilio, as the Spiritual Director and together with Richard & Lee dela Fuente and Rene & Sally Castaneda as sharers.

Their testimonies conveyed the message of God's living presence in their marriage lives, and the use of loving communications for a better and deeper relationship. They have inspired the class to persevere and live their marriage covenant with love and trust.

We praise and thank you, Lord, for opening the hearts of the couples and we pray for their continued transformation through the power of Your love. With gladness, we welcome the ME 36 graduates to our community led by their shepherds Nick & Island Raagas: Anthony & Nenna Ugoaru, Alex & Yisel Pribula, Chidi & Miriam Durugo*, Anthony & Lucy Gautreaux, Rody & Arlene Lintag, Arnold & Christy Yanto*, Banban & Baby Villar, Joe & Maryann Basa, Mando & Neco Daza, Richie & Ai Escobinas*, Chuck & Chika Ibeku, Fr Charles Muorah and Fr Andre Querijero. (* Coordinators)

We also extend our gratitude to the sponsoring class of ME #35, Praise Ministry, Liturgy Ministry, Intercessory Ministry, Word Ministry, Treasury, the auxies and the rest of the community who worked together as one body in bringing this mission of evangelization into fruition.

"...in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you. Not that we do not have the right. Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us." (Thes 3:8-9)

To God be the Glory for the things He had wonderfully and powerfully done for us!

COUNSELS

Jesus, Remember Me

THEME: We believe in the God of the living when we acknowledge the kingship of Christ.

WORD: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

ORDER: 1. *"Let us give thanks to the Father."* (Col 1:12)
2. *"You shall shepherd my people."* (2 Sm 5:2)

REFLECTION:

The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pius XI in 1925 and celebrated on the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year to foster the awareness of Christ's dominion over all people. Jesus was anointed by the Father as the Eternal Priest and Universal King. As Priest He offered His life on the altar of the Cross and redeemed the human race by this one perfect sacrifice of peace. As King He claims dominion over all creation that He may present to the Almighty Father a Kingdom of truth and life, a Kingdom of holiness and grace, a Kingdom of justice, love, and peace.

One day, a colleague of mine came to work depressed for reasons I did not know. He said in exasperation, "A few years from now, nobody will remember the good things we did let alone that we ever existed." All of us I am sure on occasion, wonder, "Will I be remembered after I am gone?" The answer is YES and this Sunday's Gospel reassures us exactly that -- Jesus, our Lord and King will remember us and love us to eternity.

Different images of Christ's kingship are captured in this Sunday's readings. In the first reading, David became the king of all the tribes of Israel. David was an image for things to come. The prophecy of Isaiah (Is 61:1-2) which said that one *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Lost and Found

“Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:9-10)

As I pondered upon these words, it gives me delight to know there is hope in all of us. Sinners big or small, the Lord has promised salvation to everyone. It is however essential to understand and embrace the four basic truths of our faith by which ultimately we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

One of the great saints, St. Francis of Assisi once said that in order to make the Gospel of Christ authentic we ought to live it. The good news is that Jesus Christ promised that He will not leave us orphans, ***“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you and will be in you.”*** (Jn 14:16-17) As we walk the posture of a genuine Christian Catholic and embrace the path of discipleship, the journey we take may be filled with uncertainties and surprises. Along that road, oftentimes we fail to heed and call upon the magnificence and omnipotence of our Heavenly Father especially when puddles of difficulties, trials and worries are encountered on the crossroad of servitude and seem to dampen the true meaning of discipleship. There is a need to recognize our limitations, our sinfulness which demand to magnify our dependence to our Heavenly Father so that through Him, with Him and in Him we can all be saved.

Spiritual destitution leads to lack of zeal. We can easily identify ourselves in the midst of darkness from which spiritual dryness grabs the opportunity to sway us away from the divine path. It is evident that we need to mold our whole being to live a life of servitude. We can only place our trust in Him knowing that His works will always prevail. As we seek God to console us under the spread of His wings during the challenging moments, we can only thank Him for blessing us in taking part in the labor in His vineyard.

Our human capabilities cannot sustain this call without the counsel and genuine transformation by the Holy Spirit. In Phil 4:13, St. Paul proclaims, ***“I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.”*** The Word made flesh, the Word Incarnate possesses all the might to carry us through, in good times and bad times. As we commune with the Lord, lets us reflect and ask ourselves whether we have truly lived a life parallel to the paradox of the cross, and shared in the victory of Jesus Christ’s resurrection. Have we allowed ourselves to be enveloped by the Holy Spirit as we face the lures and comforts of the flesh?

Continued ➤

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

“What do you want me to do for you? He replied, Lord, please let me see. Jesus told him, Have sight; your faith has saved you. He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God. When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.” (Luke 18:41-43)

Hearing this passage from Monday’s Gospel I’ve often wondered why our Lord would even ask that blind man what he wanted. It would seem obvious that he would want his sight restored. Clearly, everyone knows the man is blind, he is seeking mercy so what else could this man possibly want more than to regain his sight. Why ask a question that has such an obvious answer? In fact we see several instances in Scripture where our Lord had asked questions that to us would’ve been obvious. Another example can be found in John 5:5-6 where we have a cripple who was lying by the pool for 38 years. Our Lord came up to him and asked him if he wishes to get well? Of course he does.

But as in all things our Lord does, we see time and time again that there is always some hidden meaning to His actions. Everything He does, and that means everything is for some greater purpose, whether it’s to teach us or to draw us closer to God.

If that’s the case then what’s the lesson here? One thing I know is that our Lord probably wouldn’t do this for Himself but He most likely is doing this for our sake.

One thing I also know and since I can only draw from my own experience is that when I pray to the Lord for something and my prayers are answered, whether I realized it then or at some future point I am filled with a sense of gratitude to Him and just like the blind man who went away glorifying God, my faith is reinforced. In fact the single biggest reason why I am with BLD is because I am so grateful to God for answering my prayers that I’d like to praise and glorify Him every opportunity I can.

It might be quite different though if I’m given everything I want or need without even asking for it or without even realizing that I need it. I’ll probably be like that spoiled kid you know who has no sense of gratitude or humility but is filled with a sense of entitlement instead and whose relationship with his/her parents is practically non-existent.

And I guess that is the point. By Jesus asking us what we want Him to do for us He is essentially coaxing us to have a relationship with Him, to draw us closer to Him. And it’s just like our Lord to abide by us even though we oftentimes try to turn Him away, because He loves us so much. AMEN!

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Brothers and sisters, I exhort you to claim joyfully His promise so that, at the end, we too can echo the words of St. Paul, ***“I have completed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”*** (2 Tim 4:7)

COUNSEL (from page 1)

greater than David was fulfilled in Jesus who is the Universal King, King of Jews as well as us, the gentiles.

In the second reading, St. Paul describes the different aspects of Christ's kingship. He is the image, the visible manifestation of the Invisible God. In Him all things were created in heaven and on earth. Creation reflects the image Christ as King, giving us a good reason to cherish all creation. He is the Head of the mystical body, the Church, and that's us. It points out our intimate relationship with Christ united with him through baptism and our faith. He is the first born from the dead. He is the kind of King who shares his victory over death with his subjects by promising resurrection for those who accept him their Lord and King.

In the Gospel reading, reference is made that Jesus is a king. 1) The soldiers called out "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." 2) The inscription on the cross read "This is the King of the Jews." 3) The repentant thief said "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Today's reading is a paradox. It reinterprets the image of a king. It portrays Jesus dying the death of a criminal, a crucified King whose crown is made of thorns and whose royal garment is a towel to wipe his subject's feet. He appeared powerless to show that Love conquers everything, not power as we know it, "for God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in him might have eternal life."

We can choose to be like the leaders of the Jews, soldiers or the criminal who mocked Jesus or we could be like the repentant thief (St. Dimas) who did not know much about Jesus except that the name Jesus means Yahweh saves. "Remember me!" What powerful words. The thief asked only to be remembered but the Lord, our Priest and Intercessor, gave him much more than he asked for. Similarly, when St Augustine asked his dying mother, St. Monica, what he can do for her. She said, "Just remember me when you elevate the bread and wine at consecration every time you say the mass." [Mothers, are you listening? Fathers, are you listening also? We need more priests who will pray for us].

As disciples of Christ in this community let us acknowledge, honor and venerate His kingship over his creation deep in our hearts. Let us enthrone Him in our families, our homes and in our ministries. Without His reigning supreme in our hearts we will never have peace and harmony in whatever we do and in the midst of whatever groups we belong to. Out of the many blessing we receive from the Father, let us always thank Him for His gift of Jesus in us!

For you and me, every time we go to the sacrament of reconciliation, participate at mass and receive Him at communion, and when we kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament, let us talk to Him. Let us not forget that when we help the least of His ↗

Ministry Matters:

THE TEACHING MINISTRY



The formation of our community members, primarily the work of the Formation Apostolate, is really the work of the Holy Spirit exercised through the whole community's different forms of service and different workings from all the formation agents in our apostolate and ministries. Through the community's strategies of work, worship, word, warfare and witness, our community seeks to prime our members for the work of the Holy Spirit to form, instruct and transform them that they may be **"equipped for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God."** (Ephesians 4:12-13).

The Teaching Ministry's function is an integral part of the work of the Formation Apostolate. Primarily the Ministry is tasked to implement the community's Christian Discipleship Formation Program (CDFP). The Teaching Ministry's main ministry is the ministry of the Gospel. Its main function is to help our members draw closer to the person of Jesus through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, always guided and led by the Word of God, to teach and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By providing teachings and formative retreats, the Ministry seeks to continue the work of the Divine Sower, to sow the seed that is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). By providing, as earthen vessels, regular spiritual nourishment of the Word of God to our community members, the Ministry and all the teachers seek to help guide our community members to a greater understanding of the sacred deposit of the Word of God found in Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Traditions as well as the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Magisterium. The Ministry through constant prayers and steadfast faith, seeks to help cultivate our community members' hearts and minds that the seed should fall on rich soil, and **"when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance."** (Luke 8:15) to attain a deeper personal relationship with our personal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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brethren, we are saying to Our Lord and King: **"Jesus, remember me."** Let us say that three times from our hearts. And the Lord will answer, **"Today you will be with me in Paradise."**

DIRECTION: Declare the sovereignty of Christ in our community by living in peace and harmony.

BLD VISION & MISSION

Vision

Community - We are a communion of families and a community of persons, called together as one people through a moment of encounter and a process of renewal, to a relationship of faith, hope and love with God.

Christian - We are reconciled with the Father by our saving faith in Jesus Christ, by our renewing trust in the Holy Spirit, and by our uniting compassion with one another.

Charismatic - We are blessed with personal gifts, spiritual and natural, innate or acquired, which we yield to the Word and Spirit.

Caring and Giving - We give freely and fully of ourselves and love and serve one another as we seek and proclaim God's kingdom.

Covenant Discipleship - Through our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, we commit as disciples to be a countersign to all that is at war with the teachings of our Lord, and to emerge victorious in living and sharing the values of our Christian faith.

Mission

The Lord calls us to:

- Liberate the family from the forces that work against life, love, and unity.
- Minister to the temporal, emotional, and spiritual needs of the elderly, the infirm, the immigrants, and the unemployed.
- Raise an army of disciplined prayer warriors through worship, instruction and pastoral care.
- Form and equip small communities of faith that will proclaim the kingdom of God in their respective areas.
- Serve the needs of the Roman Catholic diocese and parishes through our community programs.
- Support the community's breaking the yoke of poverty programs.

The Disciples Prayer

Jesus, my Lord and my Brother, let me do Your work for your sake, and not for my own pride or self satisfaction. As long as I want what you want I will act prudently and safely. If I fret at my failures I am working for myself and not for You. Your will is to be done, not mine. I hope to attempt all of the good within my reach but I will attempt all of the good within my reach but I will not be over-anxious about the results. If I lose my presence of Mind and my peace of soul it is because I am thinking more of Your work than Your will. I need only do my best. The rest depends on the people around me and Your grace. Let me never think I am bigger or more able than You. I now put all things into Your hands. Amen

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Saturday. **Nov. 27 • ME 25**

Contacts: Gerry/Dimple Canlas 201.693.6119

gcanlas@optonline.net, scanlas@gmail.com •

Ramie/Emmie Espina • erespina@hotmail.com

TEACHING CALENDAR

11/19	Service Formation • Service Class
11/20	Christian Maturity Program I • LSS 33 Growth in Prayer / New Creation Realities • LSS 34 & 35 Healing & Deliverance • LSS 29, 30 & Covenanted Disciples

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING NOV. 12, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,772	183,437
Expenses	5,402	175,792
Surplus/(Deficit)	(630)	7,645

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Spirit, Come Concert

Dec. 4 • Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Two shows: 2-4 pm; 6:30-8:30 pm

The Cruzada Family & Friends will hold a concert to benefit *Divine Mercy Parish & Scholarship of Hope*

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Christmas Mass

Dec. 17 • Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410.676.6000

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

Announcing a Writing Challenge for 2010!!!

Share your BLD's Life Story with the Lord in our 450-word essay writing challenge. Email to word@bldnewark.com.

"Write down, therefore, what you have seen and what is happening." (Revelation 1:19)



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 46

Bulletin Edition

Nov. 26, 2010

God's Mighty Hands

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you." (Mt 6:33)



Our God is truly an awesome God! Once again, our hearts are overflowing with joy for a bountiful harvest of 46 graduates of our recently concluded Singles Encounter No. 25 held at Graymoor

Spiritual Center, Garrison New York, on Nov. 19-21, 2010. Fr. Paul Lehman and Fr. Michael Fugee were the Spiritual Directors. The facilitators were Rico Cairme, Monica Canlas, Rowena Jaico and Paul Lazaro. We welcome the new class shepherds, Roger and Pina Coquia who will guide the class in their spiritual growth in the community.

God's mighty hands were so evident as we praise and thank Him for the beaming & vibrant SE25 graduates whose names are as follows: Adapon, Alex; Adel, Michael; Albuero, Diane; Alfonso, Christoher; Alfonso, Clint; Barcenilla, Brian; Cabrera, Andrea; Cacabelos, Aldrin Jay; Canlas, Clara; Carrero, Elloit; Cortes, Bernard; Cubelo, Jeremiah; de Guzman, Michael; Duma, Stephanie; Dumandan, Kevin; Duque, Christian; Elio, Espiridion; Encarnacion, Julian; Ganaden, Noel; Garcia, Martin; Geraldino, Gen; Ignacio, Glen; Larobis, Angela; Lopina, Daven; Malonzo, Jewel; Malonzo, Precious; Manansala, Tiffanie; Maniego, Katrina; Marguez, Jon; Molero, Renzo; Montecillo, Kyle; Noeth, Phillip; Ornillo, Clarissa; Pacia, Alyssa; Pacia, Ayn; Pie, Robert; Postadan, Ryan; Sampilo, Nina Faye; Samson, Danica; San Agustin, Matthew; Sese, April; Siopangco, Kaye; Supardi, Erik; Valeriano, Allison; Valeriano, Ashley; Yap, Pauleene.

The grand reunion shall be held on December 16, 2010 at Connell Hall, Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway, NJ. Again, the BLD Community welcomes the new SE25 graduates.

COUNSELS

Spiritual Preparedness - Discipline

THEME: Spiritual preparedness is to conduct ourselves with propriety.

WORD: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

ORDER: *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."* (Rom 13:14)

REFLECTION:

This Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, the Catholic Church begins the period of four weeks' preparation for Christmas – the greatest feast of Christ's coming on earth. The word Advent refers to the coming of Christ. We prepare for the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, as our hearts and minds are raised to His second coming. God's word for this month is *"Walking in the light of the Lord requires spiritual preparedness."*

During the Advent season, we are exhorted to be prepared of Christ's coming by being awake, vigilant, hopeful of our salvation, walking in the light, conducting ourselves properly, and putting on the Lord Jesus Christ.

To prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily, we need to pray, fast, repent, and do good works. As Christians, we need to make prayer as the central component of our every act. We need to develop prayer as a discipline, as part of our daily life. *"With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit."* (Eph 6:18) *"Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you. This I command you: love one another."* (Jn 15:16-17) Fasting is one of the most powerful spiritual disciplines we have as Christians. While it takes the form of refraining

Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain... he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." (Is 2:3)

The Word Is Forever Alive!

“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Luke 21:32-33)

As we look out our windows, we once again see that the leaves on the trees are almost gone and winter is almost here. Spring and summer are nothing but a memory, just as all the seasons of the past years have gone by. Kings, empires and leaders of the world try to carve their names in the sands of time with memorials and memoirs of their achievements. Just like the pharaohs of Egypt who built the pyramids to immortalize themselves, they are now mere footnotes in our history books.

We likewise try to leave our “indelible” mark through our relationships with other people. However, as we reach the zenith of our achievements and relevance in our society, the mark begins to fade through the emergence of new generations of ideas and knowledge. We try to cling to the glories of our past by going back to those with whom we shared these successes through reunions. This generation is able to easily achieve reconnection through the new technology of social networking such as Facebook, Twitter and e-mails.

Jesus, in this passage, is saying that nothing on this earth, neither the height of our achievements nor the amount of treasures that we have accumulated, can help us immortalize our names and our pasts. No amount of reunions or friends in Facebook will save those memories for posterity. Just as many of our life’s acquaintances have passed away, and the entries in our social networking sites are reduced to bits and bytes, we too will soon be gone and forgotten. This is a reality that many of us are aware of but find hard to accept.

Even though we have come to know more of Christ and His teachings, even though He promised that we will see the signs of the coming end of our times, we still strive hard to do things for the glory of our names rather than the salvation of our souls.

Mother Theresa’s words should resonate in our lives as we pursue happiness here on earth. She pointed out that “God does not want us to try to succeed; He only wants us to be faithful.” Nothing can bring us full satisfaction and completeness in our lives but our faithfulness to the living Word of God, for the scripture has pointed out that although we are barely a speck in the vastness of the universe of God’s creation, each and everyone of us is a precious gem before our Father’s eyes, and He knows and calls each one of us by name.

Indeed, we become most significant in the eyes of our Creator, and the Eternal Word of God will shine and continue to live on through us.

Generous Heart

“I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.” (Luke 21:3-4)

Jesus' dying on the cross is the best and purest example of a Generous Heart: God gave His only Son to save us from our sins. Having a generous heart, as exemplified by the poor widow in Luke 21:1-4, is not just about giving money generously. It means loving our neighbor the way God loves us. It is giving freely of our time and energy in every activity. It means having good wishes for others, free from jealousy, hatred and a criticizing nature. The Pope explained that if we love our neighbor with a pure and generous heart, it means that we really know God.

“Lose yourself in generous service and everyday can be a most unusual day, a triumphant day, and an abundantly rewarding day.” William Arthur Ward (Scholar, Pastor, Teacher).

We have so much blessing to share, learn from and celebrate with one another. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest. Look at our BLD community. From each person to each ministry, to each DLC and DCS, we see how much talent, time, energy, service, charity, and love we have shared and celebrated with each other and how much we have learned from each other. It would be wonderful to extend our generous heart to our family, friends and office-mates, to strangers and those outside our community. Often times though, even if we know somebody needs help, we don’t know where to go or what to do. The simplest approach may be asking, “how can I help?”

For most of us, the hardest practice of having a generous heart has to do with the way we see or treat other people, how we discriminate. We don’t usually want to socialize with the poor; or we look down on other cultures, skin colors and lifestyles. This kind of discrimination sometimes results in violence, which is really quite sad.

In 2 Cor 8:7 it says, ***“Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also.”***

Loving and Generous God, we have been blessed with many good things. Help us to assess honestly all that we have to give. Draw us toward those who are most in need of the love, compassion and kindness we can offer. Increase our awareness of those who struggle to feed, clothe, and house their families. Let our efforts expand our capacity for generosity and deepen our commitment to justice. Through the alms we give, may we recognize and praise You for the depth of Your love and care for us. Amen.

APOLOGETICS

"Purgatory Not in Scripture"

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a "*purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven,*" which is experienced by those "*who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified*" (CCC 1030). It notes that "*this final purification of the elect . . . is entirely different from the punishment of the damned*" (CCC 1031).

Some Fundamentalists charge, as though it actually proved something, "*The word purgatory is nowhere found in Scripture.*" This is true, and yet it does not disprove the existence of purgatory or the fact that belief in it has always been part of Church teaching. The words Trinity and Incarnation aren't in Scripture either, yet those doctrines are clearly taught in it. Likewise, Scripture teaches that purgatory exists, even if it doesn't use that word and even if 1 Peter 3:19 refers to a place other than purgatory.

Christ refers to the sinner who "***will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come***" (Mt 12:32), suggesting that one can be freed after death of the consequences of one's sins. Similarly, Paul tells us that, when we are judged, each man's work will be tried. And what happens if a righteous man's work fails the test? "***He will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire***" (1 Cor 3:15). Now this loss, this penalty, can't refer to consignment to hell, since no one is saved there; and heaven can't be meant, since there is no suffering ("fire") there. The Catholic doctrine of purgatory alone explains this passage.

The purification is necessary because, as Scripture teaches, nothing unclean will enter the presence of God in heaven (Rv 21:27); and, while we may die with our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities in us, specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.

Then, of course, there is the Bible's approval of prayers for the dead: "***In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the dead to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin***" (2 Mc 12:43-45). Prayers are not needed by those in heaven, and no one can help those in hell. That means some people must be in a third condition, at least temporarily. This verse so clearly illustrates the existence of purgatory that, →

COUNSEL (from page 1)

from doing things we like, it is primarily a spiritual discipline designed to tame the body, so that we can concentrate on higher things. By controlling the passions of the body, we free our souls for prayer. Through fasting and prayer, the Holy Spirit can transform our life. When our LORD Jesus began His Galilean Ministry, He proclaimed "*this is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*", and up to this date, God has never relented in His call for our conversion. "*Conversion is accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, the exercise and defense of justice and right, by the admission of faults to one's brethren, fraternal correction, revision of life, examination of conscience, spiritual direction, acceptance of suffering, and endurance of persecution for the sake of righteousness. Taking up one's cross each day and following Jesus, is the surest way of penance.*" (CCC 1435:34) Repentance is not merely feeling sorry or being remorseful of sin committed, but living according to God's standards, according to God's laws. Remorse without a corresponding change in conduct is not repentance. "***Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.***" (Mt 3:8)

While we are still on our spiritual journey here on earth, we are subject to earthly demands and protocol. We have to live in a society shared with non-believers; we have to follow man-made rules, regulations, and laws. We could be doing the same as everybody, and we could even be in similar situations and enduring the same hurts, but the big difference would be if we do these things for the love of God, seeking always His holy will, and always for His glory, in our every thought, word, and deed - thus we may hope to be found worthy when He comes again.

Hindrances to spiritual preparedness are complacency, forgetting where our power comes from, and fractured relationships. God's power seems to move when we are willing to act: when we are willing to take a step and to commit ourselves to prepare for His coming; when we are willing to use the gifts that God has called us to use and be the kind of people that God has called us to be; and when we make peace to all.

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Feel the Lord's coming this season by prayer, repentance, and fasting.
- 2) Be Jesus to others by sharing goodness and kindness to them.

at the time of the Reformation, Protestants had to cut the books of the Maccabees out of their Bibles in order to avoid accepting the doctrine.

Bountiful Harvest at BLD Allentown

*"I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh.
...and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who
calls on the name of the Lord."* (Acts 2:17; 21)

On Nov. 19-20, 2010, BLD Allentown Outreach held its first LSS at the St. Barnabite Spiritual Center, in Bethlehem, PA. The Spirit-filled seminar was conducted by Spiritual Director, Fr. Roberto Ignacio, whose delightful teachings touched all present with laughter as well as wisdom. Members of the BLD community shared on the topics of God's Love, New Life, Healing & Reconciliation, Growth and Transformation. The dedication and hard work of the LSS Coordinating Team together with shepherds, Frank & Sally Belarmino, and Outreach shepherds, Caesar & Vicky Rasalan, helped expand the Lord's harvest by 23!

After their anointing, the lambs expressed the deep conviction that they felt the Spirit of God fill them with different gifts. The lambs included Darlene Abregana, Ramon & Michelle Araniego, Joselito & Gladys Belarmino, Aurora Betron, Eugenio & Evangeline Canete, Loretta Granger, Carmen Ibarra, Bob & Myrna Maloney, Prudencia Meuser, Mark & Edith Quiteles, Ronald Singco, Jose Soto, Emil & Wilma Tan, Cristina Ventura, Marjorie Villanueva and Oliver & Jag Villavincencio.

The highlight of the seminar was the Mass on Sunday, Nov. 21. In lieu of his gospel homily, Fr. Ignacio opted to have the lambs share their experiences. All the lambs testified to being overwhelmed with emotion, unable to control the movement of their tongues, full of tears, or simply unable to explain what they experienced! They testified that the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in them felt very good.



We sing our praise in thanksgiving and adoration to God for the inspiration, wisdom, love, guidance and hard work that made possible a beautiful and bountiful experience. Our appreciation to all coordinators, auxies, sharers, and the members of the Praise Ministry for the hard work of keeping the seminar running smoothly.

Glory To God

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING NOV. 19, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	4,245	187,682
Expenses	3,004	178,795
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,241	8,887

Fundraising

Golf Outing	10,664
Dinner Dance	19,487

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Spirit, Come Concert

Dec. 4 • Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Two shows: 2-4 pm; 6:30-8:30 pm

The Cruzada Family & Friends will hold a concert to benefit *Divine Mercy Parish & Scholarship of Hope*

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Christmas Mass

Dec. 17 • Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

March For Life

Jan. 24, 2011 (Monday) • Washington, DC

For Mass and Adoration schedule within the U.S.A.

www.masstimes.org or call 410.676.6000

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TYPHOON DONATION REPORTS

The ECSL issued reports of the BLD Global Community donations and the allocation of the funds to the victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged many parts of the Philippines last year. The reports are available at:

[http://www.bldnewark.net/Website Files/treasury_4.htm](http://www.bldnewark.net/Website%20Files/treasury_4.htm)

Medical Mission 2012

Venue selection process for Medical Mission 2012 is now open. Please submit your venue & requirements to Mosty/Ling Garcia at mtg7lra@aol.com.

May the blessing and favor of the Lord be upon those who are celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION

Soup Kitchen

Missionary of Sisters of Charity, 60 Jay St., Newark NJ

Every 4th Saturday. **Nov. 27 • ME 25**

Contacts: Gerry/Dimple Canlas 201.693.6119

gcanlas@optonline.net, scanlas@gmail.com •

Ramie/Emmie Espina • erespina@hotmail.com

SECRETARIAT

Replacement IDs and database updates, will take place every 4th Friday at the Auditorium



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 47

Bulletin Edition

Dec. 3, 2010

New Ministry Assignments

The following is the listing of the new ministry assignments for our ME 30 disciples:

Aceró – John 6	Mercado - Liturgy
Agapito–Mark 10/Praise*	Munsod – Intercessory
Labang – John 6	Pangilinan – Youth
Loreto – Youth/Praise*	Rama – Intercessory
Lopez – Parish Mission	Reyes – Pastoral
Mendoza – Mark 10	Sta Ana–Word/Isaiah 58*

Congratulations, brethren! We pray for your steadfast walk with the Lord. *Secondary

Covenant News is Going Green!

As we approach the end of this year we ponder on God's greatness & generosity, the splendor and the majesty of His creation. Our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude, as we reflect upon His gifts & blessings, the air we breathe, the refreshing water we drink, the plants and animals that provide our daily sustenance.

In the spirit of good stewardship of God's gifts, the Word Ministry recently proposed to the DCS and DLC, the Covenant News' "going green." The idea was supported by the two groups. For a whole year, the ministry coordinators have tracked the pattern of attendance during Friday worships and Healing Masses. Every week, extra copies of the CN are being thrown away, even after having decreased the number of printed copies gradually from 375 to 150 per week. All these at a cost of 90 cents per copy!

As we all struggle to cut costs and manage our family budgets in a responsible manner, so too, must the Word Ministry. Additionally, we are mindful of the positive ecological effects of such a decision in our environment. It is to this end that we announce that there will be markedly less hardcopies of the Covenant News available for distribution every Friday, beginning in January 2011. However, the CN will be available for every member's access through our community's website, www.bldnewark.com, by midday each Friday.

On behalf of the Word Ministry core members, we thank you for your support, and wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a healthy & prosperous New Year filled with the Lord's blessings!

"Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives."

(BLD-Newark Stewardship Prayer)

COUNSELS Maranatha

THEME: Spiritual preparedness is to be sincere in repenting of our sins.

WORD: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Rom 15:4-9/ Mt 3:1-12

ORDERS:

- *"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Mt 3:1)
- *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His path."* (Mt 3:3)

REFLECTION:

Advent means 'coming', or 'arrival'. To us Catholics, it is the most joyous and anticipated season in the liturgical year of the Church as we commemorate the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. The Messiah King has come to rule the earth with peace and justice. His birth heralds the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth, therefore we rejoice over the fulfillment of the prophecies of Elijah, and strive to obey John the Baptist's reminder to *"prepare the way of the Lord"* for someone who is, *"...greater and mightier than myself. I am unfit to untie the sandals of His feet."*

This is the focus of our celebration, the 'First Advent', so to speak. But there is more to Advent than merely celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus because Scripture also speaks of a second coming, a Second Advent. This is what we, the faithful, anticipate. It is something that we hope for and look forward to, the time when Jesus comes again in glory. Advent therefore speaks of the past and the future. What we celebrate about Advent is a simple truth that God is revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, and that through Jesus' presence on earth, we, God's creation, may be reconciled to God Himself.

That brings us to our Community Word for the December: **Walking in the light of the Lord requires spiritual preparedness.** This statement describes our own accountability for our hope that the promise of eternal life with God will come true. We are now in the 'present times', the period between the past and the future, journeying on earth with the Spirit of the Lord and participating in the process of being *Back page*

Promise of the Week

"The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him...and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord." (Is 11:2)


COUNSEL (from page 1)

purified and tested, and becoming holy, faithful, and obedient to the will of God that we may have the heart and character of Christ on earth. As we await our redemption, we are called to be vigilant, to be constantly prepared, for we do not know the time or the hour or our death, or that of the Second Advent. We are tasked to be good and faithful stewards, individually and as a community, and therefore we have the responsibility to take care of whatever God has entrusted to us. Jesus has shown us the path to life, and He is the light of our path. If we follow His ways and walk in His light every day of our lives, we will surely be blessed with that which we hope for, life eternal with Him in glory.

God is not remised in giving us instructions for holy living. But it requires discipline on our part to follow Him. The first week's theme speaks of this virtue or value - **Spiritual preparedness is to conduct ourselves with propriety.** Discipline is an essential virtue because without it, it will be easy for us to go astray and be lost in the enticement of the world. As Catholics, we are fortunate because the Holy Eucharist is available to us through daily mass and so also is the sacrament of reconciliation. Sacramental graces are sure winners in giving us the strength and courage to follow in the discipline of the Lord, for not by our own might and understanding are we able to do so, but always by the grace of God.

The second week calls for a sincere repentance - **Spiritual preparedness is to be sincere in repenting of our sins.** When we are honest with ourselves, acknowledging who we truly are, we gain self-knowledge in the light of Christ, and see our own follies and feel an inner movement of the Holy Spirit, convicting us of our sins. It is then that we can repent sincerely, from the heart. Until our repentance comes to this level, we cannot live holy lives. Our ways will remain crooked and we remain vulnerable to sin. Again, as we adhere to the discipline of our prayer life, the grace of God moves in us and allows us to repent and grow deeper in our faith, as He softens and molds our hearts to become more like Him.

This brings us to the third week - **Spiritual preparedness is to joyfully await the coming of the Lord.** It is Christmastime. And we Filipino Catholics are champions in celebrating this event. Churches are filled to the brim and overflowing. Our streets, our houses, are all decked up and lit for the occasion with the lights and ornaments of varying colors and designs, truly a sight to behold. But spiritual preparedness speaks of our interior being. We experience joy as we celebrate Christmas when we are in a state of grace, meaning, when we walk in the light of Christ, it is only then we are truly joyful and are a cause for joy to others. Joy comes from within. It emanates from our hearts and reflects the love of God who is alive in us. All the external preparations and materialism of this world cannot disguise our real joy in celebrating the birth of the Savior and our hope in the Second Coming of Christ.

Spiritual preparedness is to obey our call to holiness. The fourth week's theme calls us to live lives of holiness. The promise itself attests to this for who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? "...one whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, shall receive a blessing from the 

Innocence of the Bible, is innocence of Christ. Read the Bible daily!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check

Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING NOV. 26, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	2,957	190,639
Expenses	10,213	189,009
Surplus/(Deficit)	(7,256)	1,630

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

Lord.” (Ps 24:4-5) It is in obedience to the Word of God that we find the grace to be holy, for even if the going is rough, even if persecuted and afflicted by the trials of life, we continue to obey His Word, and His grace will sustain us. For it is in our weakness that God's strength is manifested. As we learn to overcome our trials and difficulties for the cause of Christ, we grow in holiness. The Lord will favor us.

The fifth week celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family and the virtue to uphold is unity. Of course, our model to emulate is the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose common trait is the fear of God. All three display this holy fear and love of God as they obey the will of the Father in their earthly lives. Mary accepted her fate to be the mother of Christ. In faith, she readily and gladly said “yes” when she heard her call. Joseph on the other hand, assured by the voice of God not to be afraid, married Mary and took care of her and the child in her womb, humbly accepting God's will. Lastly, Jesus said “yes” to God the Father, to give His life and make the ultimate sacrifice on the cross in obedience to the Father, and for the love of humanity. These are supreme examples of holy fear of God and total obedience to His will. The promise for this week affirms the reward: ***“Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be and favored,”*** (Ps 128:1-2).

The Order the month is for us is to do away with what is of the flesh and live holy, upright lives as a people of God, and children of the Light, vigilant at all times, that we may be found worthy when our time is up to meet the Lord at His Second Advent. So much time is given us to step up to that call of God. Let us keep our candles burning and walk in the path Jesus has laid out for us. Let us be ever conscious of His love for us and His desire for us to be one and united with God, our loving Father, who is waiting to welcome us into His heavenly abode.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Speak the truth in love
2. Examine yourself and recognize your wrong doings.
3. Proclaim the Word to others in love and without fear.



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 48

Bulletin Edition

December 10, 2010

NEWS

Songfest Concert, December 4, 2010

Last Saturday, the Divine Mercy Parish auditorium was the venue for a Songfest Concert that featured a number of BLD musical talents. Two well attended shows started with the cutest members of the community – the kids from BLD Newark’s Mark 10 and John 6 Ministries singing 3 songs. Not to be outdone, Youth Ministry Praise and BLD Trenton’s Singles Praise, gave their all in very enthusiastic renditions of some of their favorite praise songs. Also in the program were the Youth’s very own Jocef Baquilod and his band, “Jocef and the Holy Boys”, and special appearances by Kirby Asunta and Richard Argonza from the Divine Mercy Parish.

The main feature of the concerts was the music of the Cruzada Family – Tita Long and her children singing her original compositions; songs that highlighted, not only great talent, but more importantly, a sincere praise and thanksgiving to God.

Proceeds were for the benefit of the Divine Mercy Parish. Also benefitting was Archbishop Lagdameo’s Scholarship of Hope (SOH) – a scholarship program for the poor in the Philippines who have the desire for a better life through education. Note that you can still make donations to the SOH – simply make checks payable to BLD Newark, memo “Scholarship of Hope”.

Kudos go out to all who made possible, a wonderful afternoon and evening... and to the One Who makes all things possible, including – two great concerts!



COUNSELS

True Joy

THEME: Spiritual preparedness is to joyfully await the coming of the Lord.

WORD: Is 35:1-6, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/ Jas 5:7-10/ Mt 11:2-11

ORDERS: *“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.”* (Jas 5:7)

REFLECTION:

Advent, comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming”, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. In the Greek translation of “*PAROUSIA*,” it is commonly used in reference to the second coming. It is also the time to recall the cry of the early Christians, “*Maranatha! - Come Lord Jesus!*”

On the Christmas wreath are 4 candles signifying the four Sundays before Christmas and one is different in color. Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent; it is known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The Rose colored candle is lit signifying joy, “*joy for the coming is near*”.

Advent is the season of discipline. Discipline that we may walk His ways. Through daily prayers and sacrifices we will gain indulgence, a perfect gift for oneself and to others. It is the season to repent for the coming of the Son of God is near. Let us practice true forgiveness. It is in forgiving that we are forgiven. It is the season to be holy, to heed the calling of Christ and to do everything in His Name.

“They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.” (Is 35:2b)

Jesus asked Peter, “*Who do the crowds say that I Am?*” Who is He to you? What kind of relationship do we have with Him? How much of ourselves do we give back to Him, in the form of service to God through ministry works or in our parish based communities?

Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

“They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.” (Is 35:2b)

COUNSEL *(from page 1)*

Jesus gave Himself freely and unselfishly, the love and grace we received should be freely shared with others too. Let us serve the Lord with joy and gladness. Without a relationship with Christ, glory and splendor and true joy will never be attained.

Hope is a virtue that no man can live without. Without hope there will be no reason to live. Hope gives us something to look forward to. Hope gives us the motivation to do things and to better ourselves. Rejoice, the long awaited coming is very near. To a farmer, the hope of harvest time is felt in the air. To a worker, the day of rest is about to come. To a child, it is the anticipation of opening the gift under that tree. Our patience and hope has turned to joy.

Joy is an emotion of happiness, fulfillment and satisfaction. What will make us joyful for this season? Is it the golden bracelet? Will it be the sparkling diamond? Is it the electronic toy under the tree? Some families even just call it "a tree." Many share the season of joy by saying "Happy Holidays" - sadly, this is the truth in the world we live in, the blindness in our eyes unable to see what true joy is about.

"I am the Light of the World, Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life."

(Jn 8:12)

John the Baptist spoke of the One "who is, who was and is to come," to prepare God's people for His coming. Jesus is that Light; with Christ in our lives His radiance will take away the blindness from everyone to be able to see His glory.

As a community of believers, this Christmas season, let us open our hearts and welcome Him into our lives. Let us visit and feel His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us continue to learn more of Him and remain faithful to all of Christ's teaching. Let us unify as one family and one community in our humble service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us be reminded that our first ministry is our family, therefore I urge you to love and respect each member of your family the way Jesus loves you.

It will be then that we shall feel the true Spirit of Christmas, the true reason for the season, the true joy that is priceless, found deep within that "Christmas Tree." Look, on top of that tree is a bright light, illuminating the whole tree. It radiates out to fill the room bringing joy to those who see it.

Rejoice for you are the light of the world because Jesus is in you. Rejoice for you, as a disciple of Christ, are the salt of the earth giving flavor to all of His creation; may all in heaven and earth acclaim His glory, Amen.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Serve the Lord with joy and gladness.
2. Be patient as you joyfully await for the coming of the Lord.

A soft copy of this CN can be found at www.bldnewark.net, click on Covenant News.

New Year's ...

Every new year, we hear this tune, "Auld Lang Syne" – Are you like me who wonders what it really means? It is from a poem by Robert Burns in 1788 that looks back at "days gone by" or "old times". This new year, why don't we look ahead instead... to the New Year's Promise...

New Year's Promise

(as sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne)



Every year we celebrate the coming - of a new year
Some share a toast, Some shed a tear
Call loved ones both far and near.

To the promise - of this new year, my friend
To the dawn - of this new year,
Let's raise up toasts, Forget past ghosts
In the promise of the brand new year.

To the promise - of this new year, my friend
To the dawn - of this new year,
Restart anew, In all you do
All the days of the brand new year.

In Christ renew, Let Him guide you
Every day of every year.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAIAH 58 / SERVICE MINISTRY

Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Check
Every 2nd Friday after Worship @ Fellowship area

MISSION

Nursing Home Visit

56 Hamilton Plaza, Passaic, NJ 07055
Every 2nd Saturday. Volunteers are needed.

Dec. 11 • Mission Ministry

Audie/Vulet Chong 732.356.9056

Stewardship - It's a way of life!

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER. 3, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	3,455	194,094
Expenses	(9,496)	179,512
Surplus/(Deficit)	12,951	14,582

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

DLC MEETING

Dec. 11 • 1-5pm • Divine Mercy

BLD Community Christmas Worship

Dec. 17 • Divine Mercy Church, Rahway, NJ

March For Life

Jan. 24, 2011 (Monday) • Washington, DC



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 16 Issue 49

Bulletin Edition

December 17, 2010

Advent and Christmas Message



The Blessed Trinity generously decided for the sake of mankind to send the Second Person, Jesus Christ, to become a human being like ourselves, except sin, in order that He may be a model of

human life by at same time “walking His talk,” in order that He may deliver us from sin and death, and lead us to conversion and eternal life.

This is what we recall, reflect upon, rejoice about and respond to during the Advent and Christmas season, in fact throughout the liturgical year. The grace of Advent and Christmas grows into the grace of Lent and Easter in the one mystery of Christ.

Reflecting the generosity of the Blessed Trinity, we, as BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS Covenant Community, envision ourselves as God’s instruments of communion, renewal, healing and transformation, by seeking and proclaiming the Reign of God in the circumstances and encounters of our life. We envision ourselves as individuals and Basic Ecclesial Communities developing into the “*good and fruitful soil*” (Mt 13:4-9), for the Words and Deeds of Christ.

As servant-leaders and stewards we hope to become the “good and fruitful soil” through our respective mission and ministries as well as through our personal prayerfulness and common worship. We commit ourselves, to the best of our ability, to the collaborative *Continued on page 2*

COUNSELS

Christmas Recalls Our Holy Calling

THEME: Spiritual preparedness is to obey our call to holiness.

WORD: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

ORDER: “*Do everything in the name of Jesus.*” (Col 3:17)

REFLECTION:

Mary will bear a son and His name is Jesus.

Notwithstanding the controversy that may have surrounded Mary’s conception at a time she was awaiting her own wedding to Joseph upon whom she had been betrothed was in fact in accord with the Jewish custom. In order for us to grasp this reality, we need to understand the custom of the Jewish people. This custom has at least three steps leading to a Jewish wedding.

First is the engagement which is often made when the couple were still children and it was normally the parents or a professional match-maker who arranges the marriage without the couple having even seen each other. The Jewish nation considers marriage as too serious a step that it should be left to the dictates of the human heart.

The second step is the betrothal. This is what the Jewish call the ratification of the engagement; but even at this point, the engagement can be broken if the girl is unwilling to go on with the betrothal. Once this second *Continued on page 3*

Promise of the Week

“One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean...shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior.” (Ps 24:4-5)

Advent & Christmas Message (continued)
and participative task of helping the *poorest of the poor* through food, medicines, education, housing and employment.

The message of Advent and Christmas, represented by the image of the CRIB, which has become a rare component of Christmas celebration, is a challenge for us in BLD to transform our world into “*good and fruitful soil*” for the core values of truth, justice, love and peace, of solidarity, integrity, accountability and teamwork.

Without Advent and Christmas, there could not have been Lent and Easter. We do not wait for the future to come; we start to bring it about in the present. Let’s do it.

The Word of Eternal Life

(excerpt from *The Cloud of Unknowing**)

God’s word, written or spoken, is like a mirror. Reason is your spiritual eye and conscience your spiritual reflection. And just as you use a mirror to detect a blemish in your physical appearance- and without a mirror or someone to tell you where the blemish is you would not discover it- so it is spiritually. Without reading or hearing God’s word, a man who is spiritually blind on account of habitual sin is simply unable to see the foul stain on his conscience.

When a person discovers in a mirror-or learns from another- that his face is dirty he goes immediately to the well and washes it clean. Likewise when a man of goodwill sees himself as reflected by the Scriptures or the preaching of others and realizes that his conscience is defiled he also goes immediately to be cleansed. If it is a particular evil deed he notices, the well he must seek is the Church and the water he must apply is confession according to the custom of the church. But if it is the blind root and tendency to sin he sees, then the well he must seek is the all-merciful God and the water he must apply is prayer with all that it implies. So I want you to understand clearly for beginners and those a little advance in contemplation, reading or hearing the Word of God must precede pondering it, and without time given to serious reflection there will be no genuine prayer.

(*The Cloud of Unknowing* was written in Middle English by an unknown mystic of the fourteenth century.)

Covenant News Is Going Green

As we approach the end of this year we ponder on God’s greatness & generosity, the splendor and the majesty of His creation. Our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude, as we reflect upon His gifts & blessings, the air we breathe, the refreshing water we drink, the plants and animals that provide our daily sustenance.

In the spirit of good stewardship of God’s gifts, the Word Ministry recently proposed to the DCS and DLC, the Covenant News’ “going green.” The idea was supported by the two groups. For a whole year, the ministry coordinators have tracked the pattern of attendance during Friday worships and Healing Masses. Every week, extra copies of the CN are being thrown away, even after having decreased the number of printed copies gradually from 375 to 150 per week. All these at a cost of 90 cents per copy!

As we all struggle to cut costs and manage our family budgets in a responsible manner, so too, must the Word Ministry. Additionally, we are mindful of the positive ecological effects of such a decision in our environment. It is to this end that we announce that there will be markedly less hardcopies of the Covenant News available for distribution every Friday, beginning in January 2011. However, the CN will be available for every member’s access through our community’s website, www.bldnewark.com, by midday each Friday. In addition, a softcopy will be emailed to Ministry Heads and Class Shepherds for further dissemination to members.

On behalf of the Word Ministry core members, we thank you for your support, and wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a healthy & prosperous New Year filled with the Lord’s blessings!

How To Access Covenant News Online

Here is all you need to do:

1. Go to: www.bldnewark.com
2. Click on **Covenant News** (top margin)
3. Click on [Latest Covenant News](#)

"Proclaim the Word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

COUNSEL (from page 1)

step is entered into, it then becomes binding. This period of betrothal lasts for one year and the couple is known as man and wife but without the rights of a married couple. This union can only be terminated by divorce; this was the procedure that Joseph might have mulled when he came to know that Mary was pregnant.

The third stage is the marriage proper which takes place at the end of the betrothal period. And if we are to follow the Jewish customs, then the relationships of Joseph and Mary are perfectly clear.

Joseph had no choice but to bow down to the will of God after he was told that Mary is to bear a child that is begotten by the Holy Spirit and that he must call the child Jesus which is the Greek form of Joshua (Joshua means Jehovah or Salvation). Joseph was also told that the child to be born would grow to be the Savior who would save the people of God from their sins. Like any other Jew, Joseph believed that the Holy Ghost (as the Jews call the Holy Spirit) not only brought God's truth to men, but also enabled men to recognize that truth when they saw it. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, Joseph knew that Jesus who is yet to be born is being sent to open men's eyes to the truth.

The Jews also relates the Spirit of God with the work of creation and it is through the Holy Spirit that God performed His work. The Spirit is the Creator of the World and the Giver of Life. Thus, it is through the birth of Jesus that God's life-giving and creating power will come into the world. That power which is to come is what will bring order to our disordered life. The power that will come with the birth of Jesus is what will breathe life into that which there was no life and this is the same power that will breathe life into our weaknesses and frustrations. The Jews also refers to the Spirit not only with the work of creation but with the work of re-creation. The Jews believe that when men are dead in sin and in lethargy, it is the Spirit of God which can waken them to life anew.

But what the Jews failed to grasp and which we Catholics and Christians alike now believe is that Jesus will come into the world with the ↗

power that can re-create life. The coming of Jesus can bring to life the soul which is dead in sin and only Jesus has the power to revive again the ideals that have died and, he can make strong again the will to goodness that has died among men who are surrounded by the world. Jesus can renew life when men have lost all that life means.

There is more to this passage than the fact that Jesus is to be born of a virgin mother. The essence of this Gospel of Matthew, particularly this passage, is that in the birth of Jesus, the Spirit of God will become operative like never before in this world. It is the Spirit of God who will bring God's truth to men and it is also the Spirit who will enable men to recognize the truth when they see it. In effect, it is the Spirit through the birth of Jesus who is going to be God's agent in the re-creation of the world since it is only the Spirit who alone can re-create the human soul when it has lost the life it ought to have.

The soon-coming birth of Jesus will enable us to see what God is, and what man ought to be. The coming of Jesus should open the eyes of our minds so that we can see the truth of God for us. Jesus is the recreating power who can release the souls of men from death in sin to life eternal. Now is the last chance to prepare ourselves for this great moment. Now is the last chance to repent of our sins with a sincerity of heart and to receive the Sacrament of Confession. As we come towards the end of the Advent Season, let us remember those who have not yet prepared themselves for the coming of the Lord. Let us ask the Spirit of Jesus to implant within their hearts the urgency of being and remaining in a state of grace. The salvation that comes with the coming of Jesus is what everyone should look forward to in this Advent Season.

DIRECTION:

Be holy and heed the call to belong to Jesus Christ.



“And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.”

(John 1:14)

Stewardship Prayer

Lord God, You alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life. We praise You and thank You for Your great power and tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have are Your gifts, and after having created us You have given us into the keeping of Your Son, Jesus Christ

O Lord, forgive our fears that so stifle our stewardship. Forgive our giving in and our giving up instead of giving ourselves to Christ's mission of love.

Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, and in His spirit may we be bonded together into a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, and our material and spiritual gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Before Scripture Study

Merciful Father, You have given the Church the Holy Bible. As we receive it, hear it, read it, and learn to live by it, may we discover in Your word the foundation of life.

Grant comfort, challenge, and strength in the study of its stories, its poetry, its wisdom and its commandments.

May they inspire us to dedicated service to one another. Teach us to cherish the hope of everlasting life that You give us in Your Living Word, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide

- In this Season when I am called to repentance and seek God's forgiveness, what are the areas in my life that I need to change or give up that I may remain in a state of grace in preparation for the coming of the Messiah?
- What are the things that I am prepared to do when He comes for me to become a true disciple?

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"

LORD'S PROVISION

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER, 10, 2010

	Actual	YTD
Collections	5,755	199,849
Expenses	8,280	187,792
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,525)	12,057

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

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE

March For Life

Jan. 24, 2011 (Monday) • Washington, DC

Catholic Men's Conference

Mar. 5, 2011 (Saturday) • Seton Hall University

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Lord our God, we praise You for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, the stars of the night.

We praise You for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise You for Jesus Christ, your Son: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with wonder of Your love.

Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



**Merry Christmas
& a Blessed New Year**