



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 23 Issue 25

Bulletin Edition

June 30, 2017

## NEWS

### Solo Parents rediscover their relationship with God

- a glorious Solo Parents Weekend # 19



We praise and thank the Lord for a spirit-filled, victorious SPE19 weekend, June 23 to 25. Twenty-three participants received the richness of God's graces and the full realization that God is not a distant God, but a God Who is with us in the here and now. He is a God Who is moved by our pains, and responds to them with His mercy and grace. Our SPE graduates rediscovered their relationship with God and the living presence of the Lord in their lives. We praise the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to work in them mightily.

One word best describes the key to the glorious SPE week-end: SERVICE! We thank the Lord for the workers in His vineyard led by our Spiritual Director, Monsignor Paul Schetelick; the Sharers; the Sponsoring Class; the various teams: Piety, Service, Action and Secretariat; the Praise Ministry; the Auxies, particularly the intercessors who came to lift the whole week-end up in prayers; and others who gave of themselves toward making the SPE19 weekend one beautiful experience of God's love. The witnessing of humility, servanthood and obedience, which are the characteristics ...Continued on page 3

## COUNSELS

### Jesus First in Our Lives

- THEME: We bear much fruit when our relationship with Jesus is the focal point of our lives.
- WORD : 2 Kgs 4:8-11,14-16a ~ Ps 89:2-3,16-17,18-19  
Rom 6:3-4,8-11 ~ Mt 10:37-42
- ORDER: *"Think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus."*  
(Rom 6:11)

REFLECTION:

Instructions tell us how to operate things, go about specific tasks and implement contingencies when the unexpected arises. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus gives instructions to His apostles for their task of spreading God's message. Importantly, He also makes them aware that following Him would require utmost sacrifice, self-denial, and may even involve their being persecuted for His sake.

For us today, in order to follow Him, the initial step needed is to give ourselves to God. Sounds simple enough, but upon looking closely at it, it's a tall order. To put Jesus at the very top of things, to love Him more than family, to take up personal crosses and to follow His divine path in our everyday lives require total surrender.

This is where the difficulty lies - the act of totally giving one's self. How can we give something to God when our notion of "self" is often dictated by our status in society, what we possess or what we are capable of doing? This fragmented, selfish view of ourselves makes it difficult to move on to the next level of discipleship. ...Continued on page 3

### Promise of the Week

*"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."* (Mt 10:40)

## Pope to New Cardinals: 'Follow Him'

*Pope Holds Consistory for Creation of 5 New Cardinals From 'the Peripheries'*

JUNE 28, 2017 / DEBORAH CASTELLANO LUBOV / POPE AND HOLY SEE / Zenit.org

"Follow Him, and walk ahead of the holy people of God, with your gaze fixed on the Lord's Cross and Resurrection."

This was the advice Pope Francis gave to new cardinals when presiding over a consistory for the creation of five new cardinals today, June 28, 2017. During his Regina Coeli address in St. Peter's Square on May 21, Francis announced this consistory, to be held before the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

The new cardinals come from four continents: one from Asia, one from Africa, one from Central America and two from Europe. During the May 21 Regina Coeli, the Pope noted: "Their origin in different parts of the world manifests the Catholicity of the Church spread throughout the earth."

With these new creations, the College of Cardinals will have a total of 227 members, including 121 electors (49 electors created by Pope Francis) and 106 non-voters over the age of 80.

In total, after today's consistory, Pope Francis will have created 60 cardinals over the course of his pontificate.

The five new cardinals are all under the age of 80. They will, therefore, be voters in the event of a conclave.

**Cardinal Jean Zerbo**, Archbishop of Bamako, Mali, 73

**Cardinal Juan José Omella**, Archbishop of Barcelona in Spain, 71

**Cardinal Anders Arborelius**, Bishop of Stockholm, Sweden, 67

**Cardinal Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun**, Apostolic Vicar of Pakse in Laos, 73 years old

**Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez**, who was Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador in El Salvador, 74 years old

During the Pope's homily at the consistory this afternoon, the Pope stressed to the new cardinals: "Jesus 'is walking ahead of you,' and he asks you to follow him resolutely on his way. He calls you to look at reality, not to let yourselves be distracted by other interests or prospects."

"He has not called you to become 'princes' of the Church, to 'sit at his right or at his left,' he pointed out, but rather "calls you to serve like Him and with Him, along with the Father and your brothers and sisters."

...Continued on page 4



### A LESSON FROM WINESKINS

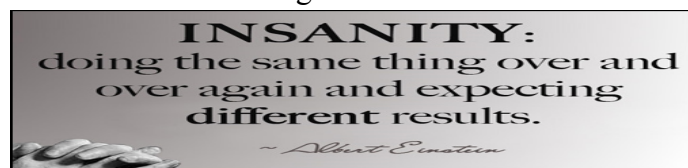
Every once in a while, I really enjoy wine with my meal. There have been many times when it has helped make a simple dinner with friends into a memorable evening altogether. The resulting mellow, satisfied feeling I get, has given me, I think, some insight into why wine is featured quite prominently in Scriptures.

I never quite understood though, the most remembered reference to wine: "...do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined." (Mt 9:17). Then something I recently read explained things.

In the time of Christ, vineyards probably had not yet developed the fermentation of wine in barrels; wineskins made from animal hides were used. As they aged, the leather would crack and eventually become brittle. So if new wine was poured into the old, the continued fermentation of the wine would release gasses that would cause the brittle leather to burst, spilling the wine and ruining the wineskin.

In the Gospel reading for Saturday, July 6, this parable comes after Jesus was asked about His disciples' non-observance of the Jewish fasting rules, rules that had been handed down through the centuries. When He said that He came to fulfill, and not to abolish the Law, He was prescribing a new way of obeying God, involving something more meaningful: finding out and fulfilling what God truly wants – the obedience of our hearts.

Even today, many people would rather just stick to rules, and I can understand why; because in a sense, it's easier. While it's true that fasting in obedience to rules does not hurt anyone anyway, allow me to use words attributed to Albert Einstein to explain why there must be something more:



We must then take the lesson from wineskins: recognize that Jesus is the new Wine and we have to renew ourselves, so that as wineskins, we'll be ready for Him Who shows the new ways to obey God, with new joys to be lived and realized for the rest of our days.



## COUNSELS

(from page 1)

The basic question here is: how do we give something that we do not really possess, and yet are seldom willing to let go of?

Surely, the brightest of stars shines most fiercely in the darkest of nights. We have heard stories of people hitting rock bottom, and while in that state of hopelessness, they discover God.

I believe that people who have been in their “darkest night” have had their lives emptied out by seemingly endless struggles and numerous defeats. But perhaps it’s at that point of emptiness, that one becomes ready to embrace God fully, and in His time become whole again through His unending grace.

It happened to me.

When I was afflicted with a serious life-threatening ailment two-and-a-half years ago, I discovered that the plans we make may be gone, just like that. This was after my wife had gone through a similar dreaded disease seven years earlier. I remember praying hard, harder than I ever did before. Often, I would pray myself to sleep.



I left it all up to God and soon discovered that I was praying all the time. It didn’t matter where I was or what I was doing; at any given moment, I was praying. My family prayed constantly too, and soon I discovered that we were all having a relationship with Jesus like we never did before. Suddenly, He became the focal point of our lives. And as expected, He did not fail us.

We, however, should not wait for a serious disease or other crisis to happen and take its toll on us before we pursue a renewed and more profound relationship with Jesus.

He is always with us, but we also need to →→

## SPE #19

(from page 1)

of true disciples, was manifested in each task that was carried out. The unity, love, respect and perfect coordination among the members of the different ministries and teams, all contributed towards the success of the weekend.

Let us welcome the new members of the Solo Parents Ministry: Mercedes Aguilar, Georgette Alexis, Teresita Arceo, Oluchi Austin-Adesina, Veronica Bausa, Baldwin Budiongan, Jennifer Canaria, David Corona, Mary Jane Cruzada, Vicki Del Guercio, Maryliza Delos Santos, Teresita Depositara, Florine Derac, Kathyann Guera, Adoracion Lavell, Marievita Liberato, Uguette Marcellin, Rosa Marmol, Lucie Mentor, Maria Milligan, Minda Monsanto, Donna Murphy and Malou Ramos.

May the grace of Jesus Christ sustain us and may the fruits of humility and servanthood from all who help us in our God-given mission of building community be nourished by the power of God’s Spirit. Praise the Lord! Thank You Lord!

\*\*\*\*\*

→ acknowledge and feel His presence, not only through prayer, but also by serving others. As He said in Mt 10:40, **“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”** He assures us that whoever receives His disciples - the followers who serve other people, especially the little ones, are in fact serving Jesus Himself.

We do not live alone. Through our interconnectedness, the deeds we do, no matter how small, are felt and amplified in our lives, and in the lives of those around us. Jesus assures us that by serving others, we are receiving Him too. He emphasizes, that our good deeds will not go unrecognized and will be rewarded. **“Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward”** (Mt 10:42).

The rewards, however, should not be the reason for the good that we do. As His followers, we gladly perform random acts of kindness, out of love, and we do them to, and for, our God.

Once this practice forms into a habit, the strangest thing happens. We discover how in giving, we become fulfilled by the act itself. It becomes a two-fold process: we give and effect changes in others, and at the same time, we too are changed. And these changes are for the better for both ...Continued on page 4

# COUNSELS

(from page 3)

the giver and the recipient of the kindness. Remember how you felt after having served in a Medical Mission, helped as an auxie at an encounter, assisted in a soup kitchen, or simply lent a hand to someone in need? I would bet that you felt more blessed than those you served.

This is how we become whole in the process of giving. This is how “we bear much fruit.” This is the miracle we experience once we put Jesus first in our lives.

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Be faithful to your covenant pledges.
2. Love unconditionally, love until it hurts... forgive.
3. Be willing to suffer for the Cross.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Pope to New Cardinals

(from page 2)

As the Lord did, the Pope urged, face the sin of the world and its effects on today’s humanity.

“Follow Him, and walk ahead of the holy people of God, with your gaze fixed on the Lord’s Cross and Resurrection.”

Pope Francis concluded, praying the Holy Spirit “bridge every gap between our hearts and the heart of Christ, so that our lives may be completely at the service of God and all our brothers and sisters.”

\*\*\*\*\*



**BLD Newark**  
1992-2017

**Save the Date**

This year marks BLD-Newark’s 25th anniversary. You are part of the beautiful tapestry the Lord has woven into this community’s history, and we invite you to join us as we celebrate this important milestone.

Please save the following dates:

- August 19, 2017 - Community Celebration  
Divine Mercy Parish, Rahway
- August 20, 2017 - 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

We look forward to reminiscing our yesterday, celebrating our today, and envisioning our future with you.

By His grace,  
The 25th Anniversary Committee

“May the LORD bless you and keep you! May the LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

# LORD’S PROVISION

Previous Week’s

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,090	\$ 34,013
Love Offerings	\$ 1,654	\$ 32,531
Mission Collections	\$ 54	\$ 3,131

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)  
Thank you for your continued support!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# YOUTH ENCOUNTER #24

“Come and Follow Me...”

July 7-9, 2017  
Fellowship Deaconry  
3575 Valley Road  
Basking Ridge

Contact: [dyc@bldnewark.com](mailto:dyc@bldnewark.com)

# FAMILY ENCOUNTER 24

July 14 - 16, 2017  
Malvern Retreat House  
Malvern PA

Submit Completed Applications to:

- \* Willy & Amor Ferrer
- \* Noel & Gale Deleon

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord: Joshua 24:15

## “We Walk Hand-in-Hand” Disciples’ Assembly

Saturday, July 29, 2017, 1-5 pm  
Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

- Knowing current BLD trends and issues, and how the Community and its leadership move to worship and serve God

Contact persons: Lisa and Joven Soriano, Joy and Raul Wong, Tatess and Tony Abad, Fe and Sundee Ikalina, Nellie and Ernest Sun

**Other Announcement**  
**Jeremiah Prayer Healing Service**  
for BLD Ministries and encounter groups

- for more information, contact the Pastoral Ministry  
Coordinators, Emil/Baby Canlas



Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Jul 7	Management
	Jul 14	Mission
	Jul 21	Pastoral
	Jul 28	Evangelization