



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 23 Issue 30

Bulletin Edition

August 4, 2017

## NEWS

## COUNSELS

### BLD Newark set to launch a Spiritual Adoption Program for the Unborn

On January 22, 1973 the US Supreme Court, in a 7-2 landmark decision in the case of Roe v Wade legalized abortion in the United States. That was over 40 years ago and since then, over a million abortions have been committed each year. Every day over 4,000 babies are killed. There is little protection for the unborn, and today, it seems that only the hand of God can end the killing.

It is our Community's stand to advocate and express our most strongly held beliefs, and affirm the dignity of human life and the right to life from conception until natural death. Each year, our Community joins in peaceful protests and public demonstrations against abortion, highlighted by BLD's participation in the annual March for Life in Washington DC, and also by intercessions during our worships. We have also supported, along with the Newark Archdiocese, the state-wide effort known as **Project 20/20**, which aims to, by the year 2020, ban New Jersey abortions past twenty weeks.

To help stop the anti-life push across the nation, the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of unborn children. Back in 2012, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the Spiritual Adoption of the Unborn, saying that prayers for the unborn are a powerful means to save and promote a culture of life. We know that prayers are answered, but we need to pray unceasingly so that with God's help, we might hasten the end of this crime against the unborn.

On the occasion of our BLD Community's 25th Anniversary Celebration we are joining this effort to promote a culture of life by establishing our BLD Newark Spiritual Adoption Center for the Unborn.

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### We Are Transformed

THEME: We are transformed as we listen to Him.

WORD: Dn 7:9-10,13-14 ~ Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9  
2 Pt 1:16-19 ~ Mt 17:1-9

ORDER: *"Listen to him."*(Mt 17:5b)

REFLECTION:

*Our* community word for the month is – **The glory of God transforms our lives.** Transformed lives begin with the message of God in the Gospel of Salvation that Christ gave us. The Word of God is the power that renews and transforms our self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness. God tells us to *"listen to him,"* (Mt. 17:5b) pointing to Jesus as His Messenger and mouthpiece Who leads us to behold God's glory, and gaze at the wonder of His power. Until we see Him face to face, it is our faith that brings us to continue believing in the Gospel, living it in our everyday lives, and sharing it with many others.

During the month of August, let us ponder the Sunday and weekly Bible readings so that we may have a deeper understanding of God's Word and be steadfast in applying this knowledge in our day-to-day lives.

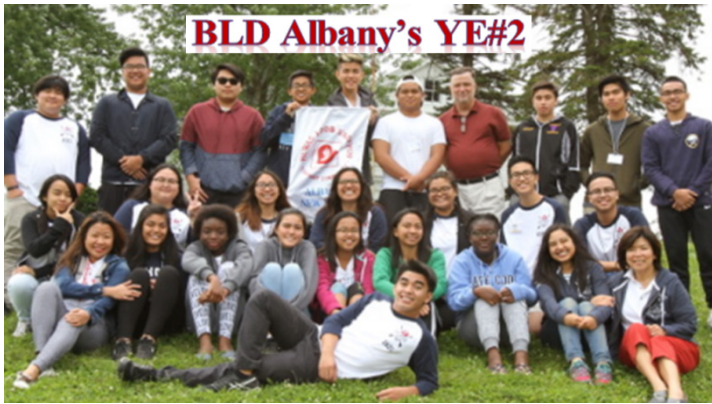
On the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, the theme is – **We are transformed as we listen to Him.** God has chosen this event at Mt. Tabor to show humanity, through the personal experience of Peter, James



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### Promise of the Week

*"...all peoples see his glory."* (Ps 97:6)



This past weekend, July 28-30, BLD Newark's Youth Ministry was privileged to serve at an outreach of the Newark Community, to help out at BLD Albany's YE#2. This was held on the gorgeous sprawling farm-like grounds of Camp Pinnacle, just outside of Albany NY. It was a monumental youth encounter, particularly because twelve years had passed since the District had held YE#1.

The retreat was facilitated by: Spiritual Director - Deacon Serge Bernachez; Facilitators - Zach Larobis, Dana DeCastro, Camille Martinez and Michael Rangel; Understudies - Joaquin Cariaso, Madeline Tanchingo, Rheanne Reyes and Issa Somera; and the priest for the weekend, Fr. John Asprec.

YE#2 was blessed to have 15 candidates in total. The weekend was also blessed by the return of that first YE class, all of whom are now adults, who still came to sponsor the encounter. They interacted with the teens directly via the action songs they performed, and indirectly by writing love letters and by their intercessions at vigil prayers.



**HOPE IGNITED!** – “Hope Ignited!!” emerged as YE#2's cheer because the class showed that no matter what trials and tribulations they had faced leading up to the weekend, they always have hope sustained by the belief that their lives would become better because of their faith in how God works. With God's grace, and our prayers, the class now seems destined to reignite BLD Albany's Youth Ministry, and perhaps, serve as the catalyst to reinvigorate the rest of the BLD brethren there.

Almost two years of collaboration between the two districts went into making YE#2 happen, spearheaded by the adults and teens of Newark's Youth Ministry. Thank you to all in Newark and Albany who made it possible. Special thanks also to Tito Manny and Tita Arlene Mangalonzo, the Newark Cluster Shepherds, →→

## Another Spiritual Lesson from Wall Street



The Gospel reading for Wednesday, August 2 is about the Kingdom of heaven being likened by Christ to a treasure buried in a field and to a pearl of great price, where the person who finds them sells everything he has in order to acquire that which has even greater value. This was actually part of the readings for the previous Sunday, but when I heard it again, I was struck by another applicable angle for the same passages. It occurred to me that Christ may have been describing a type of *arbitrage* opportunity.

*Arbitrage* may sound like a fancy Wall Street term, but a simple definition involves this: that someone recognizes financial market imperfections and differences, and extracts value from that, risk free. In other words, the premise can be restated as a situation where a person can make legal profits because they know something that others don't.

So the man sells everything... everything he has in order to purchase the field with the treasure, or to buy that great pearl, and he is able to make a gain from it, because he knows something that others do not; that the treasure and the pearl have immense intrinsic value, which those others had not yet recognized or had not comprehended.

In a very real way, Christ is the Treasure and the precious Pearl. Those of us, who believe in and follow Him, recognize His role in our lives that many others do not see in theirs (with some even going out of their way to actually exclude Him). While the wisdom of recognizing this *arbitrage* opportunity will ultimately be validated on the last day, it behooves us to know that what He does for us actually happens every day. That the time, effort and energy we expend to know and follow Him are just small investments that daily yield True Treasures: happiness, contentment and a feeling, as well as the reality of being loved in the here and now. Had we not sought Him in the first place, we would have been blind to that. Now after having found Christ, the key is to cling to Him always, for He is life's Truest Treasure.

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→ for their full-fledged support, for providing the Youth Ministry with transportation to help bring luggage and supplies to the retreat, and for their presence there throughout the whole weekend!

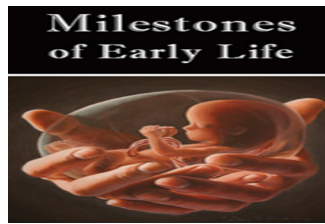
Above all, endless praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, Whose might, even after twelve years since the previous YE, always powers the work we do... all for His greater glory and honor! Alleluia!

## BLD Newark set to launch (from page 1)

What is the Spiritual Adoption Program?

First, it has a three-fold purpose:

1. To encourage all BLD members to pray for all babies in danger of abortion.
2. To educate all BLD members about the milestones of life in the nine month development of the pre-born child.
3. To provide support and assistance to mothers in need, via donated gifts and financial support to be given at a *baby shower* to be held in the ninth month of the Program. It will be a Eucharistic Celebration of life.



### IMPLEMENTATION:

The BLD Newark start date for this Spiritual Adoption Program will be on August 19. BLD members will be asked to register and sign a pledge card, and name the child who they will be praying for during the next nine months. The registry will include name, email address and contact number information. A kit will be given to each registrant, which will contain a small child's mitten, along with a prayer for the unborn. The mitten is a biblical symbol captured in the Book of Psalm 139:13,

***“You knit me in my mother’s womb.”***



Every month, information about the milestones of early life of the unborn child will be published in a special corner in the Covenant News. At the end of the nine months, a Baby Shower Party →→

## COUNSELS (from page 1)

and John, that He truly wants us to see and know the Divinity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. It is a significant moment when man meets God, bridging earth and heaven. The sight was so far beyond awesome for Peter that he no longer wanted to leave the place. But seeing is not enough; God wants us to listen to Jesus and He gives us His Word to guide us in our daily life. We are called to focus on Jesus and be faithful to all His teachings and His message of salvation. As we do and fulfil our mission, we will receive God's promise this week:

***“...all peoples see his glory.”*** (Ps 97:6b)

Our theme for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time is – **We are transformed as we set our eyes of faith on Jesus.** Living in fear, anxiety and doubt are manifestations of how little our faith is. **“Lord, save me!”**(Mt 14:30b) is a cry of helplessness which shows that, indeed, we cannot save ourselves by our own power. It is only by reaching out to Jesus and holding His hand that we will feel safe and secure most especially in tough situations. If we pay attention to the stormy seas and rough waves of our hardships, we may sink into our hopelessness and desperation. We need to renew our strength by focusing on Christ alone. If we allow our steadfast faith to carry us through our burdens

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→ in the form of a Eucharistic Mass will be celebrated. All registrants are encouraged to bring a gift for their baby. These gifts will be offered during the mass and then distributed to Centers involved in the care and support of single/unwed mothers. (All mittens are to be returned for the next prayer wave.)

Who benefits from the BLD Newark Spiritual Adoption Program?

- **EVERYONE!** We all need prayer and often we see what prayer does; and we know too, that God wants us to pray, especially for the unborn.

- **MOTHERS**, both wed and unwed, who are in dire need of assistance; they will be the recipients of the donated gifts and cash that's collected.

- And, the **BABIES!**

SAY THIS PRAYER EVERY DAY FOR NINE MONTHS TO  
SAVE AN UNBORN HUMAN LIFE

***“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby (name of baby) that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”***

*(This prayer was composed by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen)*

## COUNSELS

(from page 3)

and our difficulties, then we will reap God's promise this week:

***"The Lord will grant his bounty; our land will yield its produce."*** (Ps 85:13)

On the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, our theme is – **We are transformed as we put our trust in the love and mercy of God.** Without any doubt, God's love is complete and His mercy endures forever. This is His nature. But the response rests on us if we want to be in God's good graces. If we are humble and persistent in our prayers, God will pour out His blessings, just as Jesus richly blessed those who put their complete trust in the Lord. He calls us to embrace the Gospel and to share its message with others by what we say and do. The more we share Christ with others, the deeper we will feel His love and mercy. That alone gives us the encouragement to be His effective disciples. With hope in our hearts, God will surely bless us with this week's promise:

***"All who... hold fast to my covenant... I will bring to my holy mountain"*** (Is 56:6c,7a).

Lastly, the theme for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary time is – **We are transformed as we pray for and submit to those in authority.** In this Sunday's Gospel, we are exhorted to reflect on our answer to Jesus' question – ***"Who do you say that I am?"***(Mt 16:15). When we come to know Who Jesus is, we also discover who we are. Hopefully, in the process we too will become a "rock," in the manner that Jesus gave authority to Peter, the "Rock" upon whom He built His Church. We become the Church that Christ formed us to be, when our own identity is established by our relationship with Him. As we are united in the Body of Christ, we also become instruments of unity for its members. In a world that grows divided and is drifting from the Truth, we need to recognize Christ's anointed authority to keep His people anchored in Him in any kind of storm, believing in His direction and promise: ***"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."*** (Mt 16:19b)

**Prayer:** Lord God, thank You for leading us to Your Son Jesus by instructing us to listen to Him. We believe that our journey to transformation and wholeness starts only when we recognize Him as the Christ, our loving Redeemer Whom You sent to save us from sin and death. As we encounter uncertainties and doubts in life, strengthen our faith that we may always put our complete trust in Your goodness and mercy. Amen



## LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,716	\$ 41,504
Love Offerings	\$ 1,445	\$ 38,319
Mission Collections	\$ 39	\$ 3,696

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Save the Date

**BLD Newark**

**August 19, 2017**  
Community Celebration at the  
Divine Mercy Parish

**August 20, 2017**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance

- (1) If you haven't done so yet, but are planning to attend, please send in your RSVP for the Community Celebration on Aug 19.***
- (2) Regarding the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance on Aug 20, please turn in ticket remittances to the members of the sponsoring class, ME 40, as soon as possible. They will have a table set up for this at fellowship.***

	Date	Apostolate
	Aug 11	Management
	Aug 18	Mission
	Aug 25	Pastoral
Sep 1	Evangelization	

→ **DIRECTION:**

Profess the Truth that binds the community together.