



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 22 Issue 32

Bulletin Edition

August 5, 2016

NEWS

Not Sure How to Seek God? Hand Him Your Resistance, Says Pope

Jesus Isn't Bored With Our Lives; Tell Him About Your Day
Zenit.org / Papal Trips
JULY 31, 2016 / KATHLEEN NAAB

Pope Francis this morning lived out this Jubilee of Mercy he has proclaimed for the Church, crossing a holy door at the Shrine of John Paul II in Krakow, hearing the confessions of a handful of young people, and celebrating Mass for Polish priests and religious, encouraging them to “draw life from [God’s] forgiveness in order to pour it out with compassion on our brothers and sisters.”

The Pope this evening will celebrate the prayer vigil of World Youth Day before Sunday’s closing Mass with more than a million youth expected to participate in the final events of WYD.

At today’s Mass, the Holy Father reminded his fellow priests and consecrated persons and seminarians that “Jesus directs us to a one-way street: that of going forth from ourselves. It is a one-way trip, with no return ticket. It involves making an exodus from ourselves, losing our lives for his sake and setting out on the path of self-gift.” are and all that we do.

Furthermore, the Pope added, Jesus doesn’t like “journeys made halfway, doors half-closed, lives lived on two tracks. He asks us to pack lightly for the journey, to set out renouncing our own security, with him alone as our strength.”

This life of service to others, Francis explained, has no “closed spaces or private property for our own use.”

A priest, a consecrated person, does not choose where he lives or where they are sent; they don’t put their security in wealth or worldly power, he said.

“They love to take risks and to set out, not limited to trails already blazed, but open and faithful to the paths pointed out by the Spirit. Rather than just getting by, they rejoice to evangelize.”
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COUNSELS

Remain Faithful

THEME: True followers of Christ remain faithful, vigilant, persevering and humble servants in building God’s Kingdom.

WORD: Wis 18:6-9 ~ Ps 33:1,12,18-19,20-22
Heb 11:1-2,8-19 ~ Lk 12:32-48

ORDER: “...*be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*” (Lk 12:40)

REFLECTION:

The liturgical readings for the month of August remind us to remain faithful in living for God’s glory and to build His kingdom with vigilance, perseverance and humility. As Christ’s followers we are exhorted to be dedicated stewards in His service, especially in our service to the poor.

Our theme for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time is: We build God’s Kingdom when we persevere as faithful and prudent servants. Jesus tells His disciples, “*You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come*” (Lk 12:40). As His true followers, we are also exhorted to be watchful and ready. Jesus defines what a watchful and ready attitude is while awaiting for His coming because He will come at a time when we least expect Him. To be ready is to remain faithful in Christ and to all His teachings, and to be faithful in His service at all times. If we are faithful servants, we should not worry about when He is going to return. For whenever He comes, we are always ready for Him. “*Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant*” (Lk 12:37a) is God’s promise for us this week.

For the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, our theme is: We build God’s Kingdom when we rid ourselves of every sin and fix our eyes on Jesus. Jesus gave us His Truth.
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Promise of the Week

“*Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant*” (Lk 12:37a)

BLD Teachers gather for a Forum at the DMP Library

“Then they said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’” (Lk 24:32)

Despite the weather that brought about an inch of rainfall, over fifty teachers of the Community attended the Teachers’ Forum that was held at the DMP library last Saturday. The goal of the forum was to enhance the formation needs of the community and burning hearts emerged as the common theme expounded on by the afternoon’s four speakers.

Richard Dela Fuente started the Forum’s prepared presentations with “CDFP - Its History/Development/Challenges.” He talked about how the CDFP that was created 20 years ago in Manila was developed to meet the challenges here in North America. He enumerated the dramatic changes that were incorporated into the program to adapt to the communities here, an effort that continues to evolve today.

Ollie Felibrico's topic was “The Calling and Vocation of the Catechist.” He emphasized that Catechesis is a pillar of education in our Catholic faith, and that the heart of every teacher must have the burning desire to know Jesus. Jesus must transform their daily lives. Catechesis is a vocation, and that being a catechist goes beyond work; it is a way of life. The Heart of Jesus should be in the heart of the catechist.

The Forum’s third presenter was Bong Encarnacion who spoke about “The Discipline of the Teacher.” Teachers must have the burning heart to learn and to transfer knowledge to spur the spiritual growth of the community. The teacher sacrifices not for his own glory, but for the Master Teacher’s glory.

Jovy Lucero then spoke on “The Community Guidelines for Teachers” (the various levels of teachers and the elevation to those levels). He touched on the new guideline process that will be implemented soon.

The afternoon then shifted to a Plenary Session where there was an open exchange of ideas and suggestions. All inputs and ideas will be carefully studied and evaluated.

The Forum was well received by the Community’s teachers. Thanks were expressed to the speakers, to all in attendance and to the One Who makes all our hearts burn for His Truth. This comment from a participant best summarizes the impact of the Forum: “I went home revived, renewed and ready to become a follower of the Master TEACHER.”

“Go forth and set the world on fire. Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.” – St. Ignatius of Loyola



Pictured above are the four presenters at the Teachers’ Forum that was held, Saturday, July 30, 2016 at the Divine Mercy Parish school library: (clockwise from the top left) Richard dela Fuente, Ollie Felibrico, Jovy Lucero and Bong Encarnacion.

Fr. Paul Speaks



Two major feasts emerge during this month of August, the feast of the Transfiguration on August 6th and the feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven on August 15th. The transfiguration is, in a sense, a breakthrough from the ordinary, everyday life of Jesus into a startling revelation of His divinity. His appearance and even His clothes shone with the radiance of His divinity. The radiance and the voice from heaven were truly a manifestation of the Trinity. The Father announces ***“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”*** The presence of Moses and Elijah confirms the fulfillment of and continuity with the Old Testament prophets. This was a frightening, but exciting, moment for the three apostles, James, John and Peter. They wanted to stay there and live in that exalted presence forever. It was an anticipation of the future resurrection of the physical body of Jesus which was to become the central belief in the future establishment of the Church. For us still living in this human flesh, it is an encouragement that someday this frail human body will also be resurrected and transfigured in much the same way as Jesus’ human body was transformed on that glorious day.

The Feast of the Assumption is connected to the transfiguration in that Mary’s resurrection and glorification are not put off until the final coming of Christ at the end of time. The documents witnessing to the truth of the Assumption simply declare that Mary, at the end of her life, was taken up body and soul into the glories of heaven. How we picture this in our imagination is a very personal mind game. But this doctrine is an encouragement, that like the transfiguration, we will be taken or assumed into heaven, if we are faithful to the Will of God and die in the “state of grace.” Even though Mary had many unique privileges, she like her Son Jesus was also a human being. In her humanity she was still the “mother of God,” as well as the perpetual virgin conceived without sin. As we share our humanity under the Lordship of Jesus and the motherhood of Mary we can hope with a divine certitude that we will share with both of them some day in the glories of the Kingdom. May these feasts confirm our belief in human possibilities!

COUNSELS

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But receiving God’s truth carries with it a responsibility. As His true followers, we are responsible to be Christ’s ambassadors in building His Kingdom on Earth through our way of life and witnessing. Along the way, the devil will always tempt us with a critical spirit, bitterness, anger, desire to hurt and get revenge, and other forms of brokenness and sinfulness, even discouragement and disbelief in God. If we turn away from sin, “hate” the things of this world and serve God and not mammon, we demonstrate that our soul is more important than our body and we have absolute confidence in our redemption in Christ Jesus. And as we journey in faith in building God’s kingdom, we are consoled: ***“Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart”*** (Heb 12:3b). Jesus is our Leader and Perfector of our faith while we keep our eyes fixed on Him.

We build God’s Kingdom when we endure trials and sufferings in following Christ. This is our theme for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. As true followers of Christ, we deal with trials and sufferings caused by sin. Sin and suffering are not God’s doing, but God allows evil to continue even though it is not His will. He allows trials to train or discipline us, ***“for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines”*** (Heb 12:6). God allows suffering for restoration and formation of character, for our personal growth, to bring us closer to Him. St. Paul, who suffered more than any other apostle and who did extraordinary things for the Kingdom of God, declares: ***“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God”*** (Rom 8:18-19). Like Paul, we too can claim God’s promise: ***“the faithfulness of the Lord is forever”*** (Ps 117:2).

Our theme for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time is: We build God’s kingdom when we leave our comfort zone and serve the needy and the less fortunate. Our comfort zone is an artificial mental boundary that gives us a feeling of safety, security and comfort. However, pushing or leaving our boundaries will provide us with new experiences, skills and proficiencies that will lead us to look at problems or issues in new creative ways and solutions.

Leaving our comfort zone is finding God in those people who are suffering and marginalized by the economic, political and social oppressions of today. What should convict us is that ...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

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we cannot truly praise and worship God unless we worship Him in the broken bodies and spirits of those whom modern society has ignored and disregarded. Figuratively, Jesus says to us: *“when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”* (Lk 14:13-14) Then, we become true followers of that Man hanging on the cross, deserving to build His Kingdom for His greater glory. God has given us this promise of reward: *“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Lk 14:11).

Not sure how...

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Searching and finding

Francis also reflected on the apostle named in today’s Gospel: Thomas. Somewhat stubborn, and a bit like us, “we find him likeable,” the Pope remarked. Thomas, he said, gives us a great gift: “he brings us closer to God, because God does not hide from those who seek him.”

Drawing from Poland’s St. Faustina, the Holy Father offered some concrete advice for following in Thomas’ footsteps and seeking the Lord.

“For us who are disciples, it is important to put our humanity in contact with the flesh of the Lord, to bring to him, with complete trust and utter sincerity, our whole being. As Jesus told Saint Faustina, he is happy when we tell him everything: he is not bored with our lives, which he already knows; he waits for us to tell him even about the events of our day (cf. Diary, 6 September 1937). That is the way to seek God: through prayer that is transparent and unafraid to hand over to him our troubles, our struggles and our resistance. Jesus’ heart is won over by sincere openness, by hearts capable of acknowledging and grieving over their weakness, yet trusting that precisely there God’s mercy will be active.”

The Pontiff suggested that Thomas’ prayer when he “found” Jesus, “My Lord and my God,” — these “magnificent words” — would be a good prayer for each day ... “to say to the Lord: You are my one treasure, the path I must follow, the core of my life, my all.”

Writing the Gospel

Finally, Pope Francis recalled an image he has offered before, drawing from the final verse of John’s Gospel, which says that the book of the gospel does not contain the “many other signs that Jesus worked.”

“There is room left for the signs needing to be worked by us, who have received the Spirit of love and are called to spread mercy,” the Pope suggested. “It might be said that →→

LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 3,252	\$ 81,326
Mission Collections	\$ 137	\$ 4,991

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Day



August 13, 2016
Johnson Park, Grove 4
Piscataway, NJ

LSS 46-B – October 7-9, 2016

Now Open for Registration

Salubungan / Acquaintance – Friday, Sept. 2

Contacts: Lito.Vibar@bldnewark.com,

Earl.Manguiat@bldnewark.com, Flo.Manguiat@bldnewark.com

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, Aug 20 - 1 to 6 pm:

- Understanding Corporate Worship (LSS 1-43)
- Prayer Leadership

Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser

Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016

"Unlocking the Mystery"

- Bible Study by Jeff Cavins

Divine Mercy Parish, Room 104 classroom

September 12 - October 31, 2016

8 Sessions every Monday Night from 8:15-10 pm

"A comprehensive and engaging journey through Salvation History provides the easiest way to understand the Bible."

"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible makes the complex simple."

Please register by September 1, 2016 to prepare student booklets; student booklet: \$ 25.00

Contacts: Ray/Susie Atienza, BLD Assisted Parish Coordinators

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Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Aug 12	Formation
			Aug 19	Management
			Aug 26	Mission
Sep 2	Pastoral			

→ the Gospel, the living book of God’s mercy that must be continually read and reread, still has many blank pages left. It remains an open book that we are called to write in the same style, by the works of mercy we practise.”

“Let me ask you this,” Francis said. “What are the pages of your books like? Are they blank? May the Mother of God help us in this. May she, who fully welcomed the word of God into her life give us the grace to be living writers of the Gospel.”

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