



# COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

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## NEWS

### The Spirit beckons ... the Spirit moves

**BLD Newark**  
24th Anniversary  
Community Day  
Celebration

## SIZZLES

With temperatures soaring to what seemed like 110 degrees, Saturday, August 13 may well have been the hottest day of Summer 2016. Some 300 members and friends of BLD Newark, who attended the 24th Anniversary Celebration and Community Day last Saturday, will certainly remember this day and be grateful that the thunderstorms looming in the weather forecast, just days before, did not come.

The day started with a morning prayer led by Malou and Butch Morales and the family of FE22. Later there was a Eucharistic Celebration led by Fr. Paul Lehman. The occasion provided everyone with the opportunity to thank the Lord; and then, to just be there to have fun, hang out, stroll, run, play, share stories and laugh.



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## COUNSELS

### Love and Discipline

THEME: We build God's kingdom when we endure trials and suffering in following Christ.

WORD: Is 66:18-21 ~ Ps 117:1,2  
Heb 12:5-7,11-13 ~ Lk 13:22-30

ORDER: *"Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when reprovved by him. Endure your trials as discipline."* (Heb 12:5,7)

REFLECTION:

I called on Jesus today, and even from a distance, I saw Him waiting, looking so pleased to see me. *"Welcome, my beloved. It's been some time; you should be coming more often."* He's right, of course, I've been very remiss.

As always, the Lord was solicitous of everything about me - my family, my health, what I've been doing. As we talked, Jesus sensed that something was weighing me down in my heart. *"What seems to be troubling you lately?"* I was bold enough to complain about my problems in community - how I felt overworked, tired and unappreciated; that I encounter hostility at times. The Lord listened fully to my litany of woes, gently probing my thoughts and feelings.

*"Have you considered that there may be some good in all these?"* I was taken aback, and could neither think nor answer. *"It may be, that the Father is giving you training and improving your mettle, where He sees you lacking. He knows all that you're going through, and wants to strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees."*

"But Lord, I feel that my service goes unrewarded, while others, who don't deserve it, get more approval and unearned recognition." As soon as the words left my mouth, I wanted to take them back and felt ashamed for uttering them. I glanced at the Lord with guilt.

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### Promise of the Week

*"The faithfulness of the Lord is forever."* (Ps 117:2)

## The Spirit beckons...

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The heat seemed to dissipate when mellow voices, music and dance pervaded the park, as one after another, the Solo Parents, Singles, Youth, John 6 and Mark 10 Ministries presented numbers for an afternoon delight. It was like a concert in the park! Among the memorable numbers was the latest SPE class' rendition of the Beatles' song *Let It Be*, especially when everyone chimed in as they replaced the song's famous lyrics with these instead: "Mother Mary comes to me...Speaking words of wisdom... **BLD...BLD**."

As the Olympics were reeling in Rio de Janeiro, Grove 4 in Johnson Park saw BLD athletes resilient under the extreme weather. Here are some highlights: **YELLOW** (the only team to complete their 500-piece jigsaw puzzle) won in *Genesis: the Creation*; **BLUE** bested other contestants in *To Know Him* (Bible quiz) and in *To the Fields We Go* (volleyball); **RED** crushed all challengers in *Once in the Olympics* (tug-of-war). **GREEN** showed everyone there is power in numbers in *Go and Multiply*. A contender in all events, the **GREEN TEAM** brought home the coveted Community Day Trophy, and may now "humbly boast" of it until the next Community Day.



Thanks go out to all who were there and the various classes and ministries primarily involved in making the celebration happen. In addition to the FLA and FE22, these include: ME46 – marshals & cleanup; ME 44&45 – food; Singles & Solo Parents – dessert & beverages; ME 42&43 – games & entertainment.

Thank You Lord for the great day and for **BLD**!

## COUNSELS

from page 1

But He smiled at me with such gentleness, and in peaceful silence, He filled my mind with these words:

***"Endure your trials as discipline. My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines."***<sup>(1)</sup>

I could not hold back tears, being overwhelmed by His compassionate touch.

***"God treats you as sons."***<sup>(2)</sup>

***"He scourges every son he acknowledges."***<sup>(3)</sup>

With such kind words and divine wisdom, came a growing understanding of God's ways with men like me. I was feeling a sense of surrender, but still, weakly protested, "Lord, You know I love You, and desire nothing more than to enter Your heavenly Kingdom."

Amazingly, the Lord was listening to me; silently His assurances and His counsel continued to flood my whole being.

***"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."***<sup>(4)</sup>

With such words did Jesus impress on me that ending up in Heaven is far from being a given; rather, it will take great effort to get there. It will take, so to speak, much discipline - great effort and continuous training of my faculties and my whole being, to achieve the transcendent goal of eternal life in God's Kingdom.

***"Whom the Lord loves, he disciplines."***<sup>(5)</sup> There once again, I told myself, is another proclamation of God's great love. With His love and grace, I am newly resolved to cheerfully, joyfully bear my trials and sufferings, as I follow my Lord Jesus Christ.

***"Praise the Lord all you nations!  
Extol him, all you peoples!"***<sup>(6)</sup>

### Directions:

- Pray unceasingly for strength in times of trials.
- Patiently bear, offer and unite our sufferings with those of the Redeemer.

Note: Bible quotes above are in **bold** and *italics*. To avoid interrupting Counsels' wonderful flow, instead of citations immediately after each one, superscripts have been used following the passages. Their corresponding references are as follows:

- (1) - Heb 12:7a, 12:5b-6a (2) - Heb 12:7a (3) - Heb 12:6b  
(4) - Lk 13:24 (5) - Heb 12:6a (6) - Ps 117:1



## Meanwhile, in current events...

So much is going on in world events that are just too hard to ignore. But while it's very tempting to dive into it, no, this CN article won't get into the upcoming US presidential elections (suffice it to say that who you choose seems to be a tossup, depending on who you think is the less objectionable candidate; and as an immigrant to this country, I really have concerns). Instead, this is about the Olympics.

Over these past two weeks, many eyes have been glued to television sets, marveling at what the world's best athletes can do for Olympic glory. In many of the events, the athletes who've won are the best of the best.

Among the messages one might hear is that "Anything is possible if you set your mind to it." Well, try as I might (once upon a time, I used to swim every night), a sports medal *just ain't gonna happen* for me. But you and I should not discount the advice of setting goals and making every effort and sacrifice to achieve them... at least, the good goals.

If you'll notice, every one of the athletes has at least one coach, even the gold medal winners. Sometimes, ironically juxtaposed on the television screen would be this scene: the coach, someone old and overweight, advising the best conditioned sports stars in the world on how they could be even better. One of the most inspiring stories of these Olympics is about a 74 year old grandmother who is the coach for her grandson, the 400-meter, world-record-setting, and gold medal winning, Wayde van Niekerk of South Africa. Most interestingly too, some news sites have attributed this to his grandmother, Anna Botha: "that she regards prayer as the secret to her success." They then quote her as saying, "because I am unable to do it on my own."

This is where I'm going with this: it seems that all Olympians recognize the value of input from someone else; that despite their accomplishments, they acknowledge needing someone else to observe them and to listen to, in order to be better. This question then followed that thought: Why is it, that when it comes to people and being a better person, there's a strong human tendency to assume that *I am already the best me I can be and have no need for anyone else to tell me how I can be better?*

So hopefully, the Olympics will be more than just entertainment; that we learn this lesson too, of the value of humbly seeking and listening to others' wise counsels. If the Games inspire us to start exercising, that'd be good too. But more than that, may we each see the need to continuously strive to be a better person. Society might pooh-pooh the idea, but I think that having faith and religion help make us better persons too. Ultimately though, listening to and heeding wisdom from others - strangers, friends, the poor, and Christ, are really key to winning as the world's best ME.

## BLD Newark's Holy Door Count

As you may have noticed, we are now at mid-August, and although still very hot, summer is almost done. Also, there are just three months left in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King, Sunday, November 20, 2016.

Everyone should go on pilgrimages, enter through designated Holy Doors of Mercy and perform the additional actions needed, to gain the indulgences that are granted to all who complete them. And if **Divine Mercy's in Rahway** has been the only Holy Door you've been through so far, you are encouraged to visit and enter the other designated Holy Doors in the Archdiocese of Newark, in the other Catholic Dioceses in the US, and even those in other countries.

Then, through it all, pray, reflect, repent, complete Acts of Mercy, and be, as the motto for the Jubilee says:



*Misericordes  
Sicut Pater*

Merciful like the  
Father

Below is the short list of Holy Doors that several BLD Newark members have already entered through. This list is per information submitted thru Tuesday, August 16, 2016:

1. Divine Mercy Parish (a)	Rahway	New Jersey
2. St. Patrick's Cathedral	New York	New York
3. St. Joseph Co-Cathedral	Burlington	Vermont
4. Our Lady of the Sea	Cape May	New Jersey
5. Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians	Hubertus	Wisconsin
6. Notre-Dame de Quebec Basilica Cathedral (b)	Quebec City	Canada
7. Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine	Quebec	Canada
8. Cathedral of St. Thomas Moore	Arlington	Virginia
9. St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church	Bluffton	South Carolina
10. Basilica Shrine of St. Mary	Wilmington	North Carolina
11. Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (c)	Washington	DC
12. Pontifical University of Santo Thomas Chapel	Manila	Philippines
13. The National Shrine of Saint Padre Pio	Santo Thomas, Batangas	Philippines
14. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary	Balabag, Boracay	Philippines

(a) BLD Newark's Spiritual Home! (b) Open during every Jubilee Year; designated by the Vatican as a "Permanent Holy Door" (c) "National Holy Door" for the United States

## Update on: The Mercy-Merci Raffle

This year's BLD Newark fundraiser is well underway. Most ME's and selected Ministries should already have received their allotment of the \$2 tickets to be distributed to their members and sold. Some BLD members have actually, already sold many booklets!

Each year our Community conducts a fundraising activity to augment the weekly collections that support the basic monthly needs of maintaining our home at Divine Mercy Parish, and fund the many activities that the Community holds each year. To the extent possible, please reach out to family and friends, and ask them to help our beloved BLD.

The sponsoring class, ME 39, has scheduled the initial after-worship-at-fellowship collection of sales proceeds and ticket stubs, on **Friday, August 26**. In order to help them, they ask everyone to take careful note of the following:

### Procedure for Remitting Payments for Raffle Tickets

1. Submit payments for sold raffle tickets and the corresponding completed stubs to the person who was responsible for distributing the tickets for your group: your class shepherd, coordinator or representative (any checks should be payable to "BLD Newark"). By consolidating remittances this way, the accounting for payments and tickets sold will be more organized.
2. Class shepherds, coordinators and representatives are to **submit payments and completed stubs to the member of the ME 39 Class who will be at the Fund Raising Table in the fellowship area each Friday, starting August 26, 2016**. In cases where members have sold several booklets originally assigned to various groups, they can submit directly to ME 39. For each submission, please complete in duplicate, a **"2016 Raffle Ticket Remittance Form"** (see sample below).

2016 RAFFLE TICKET REMITTANCE FORM			
Note : Remember to return all unsold tickets			
ME, SP, SE	GROUP#	Assigned Grp (Ticket Series)	Amount
Submitted by:			\$ -
Received by:			
Date:			\$ -

→ →

Please note that a pdf of this Covenant News is also available online at [BLDNEWARK.com](http://BLDNEWARK.com)

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 2,478	\$ 86,451
Mission Collections	\$ 45	\$ 5,130

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

Thank you for your continued support!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Teaching Calendar

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

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

### 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

### John 6 Crossings # 17

Retreat for children, ages 11-14.

**October 7-9, 2016**

Fellowship Deaconry, 3575 Valley Road,  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Contacts: Marlene.Brillantes@bldnewark.com  
Tony.Brillantes@bldnewark.com

### Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser

Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016



### "Unlocking the Mystery" - Bible Study by Jeff Cavins

Divine Mercy Parish, Room 104, Sept 12 - Oct 31, 2016

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

Please register by September 1, 2016 (student booklet: \$ 25)

Contacts: Ray/Susie Atienza, BLD Assisted Parish Coordinators

Tel: 908-463-0449, Email: [asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com](mailto:asentertainmentdj@yahoo.com)

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Aug 26	Mission
		Sep 2	Pastoral
		Sep 9	Evangelization
Sep 16	Formation		

→ Several copies of this form were distributed to those who picked up their allotted tickets last month. They will also be made available at fellowship.

3. After exhausting all avenues for selling tickets, return all those that remain unsold for accounting and redistribution. All unsold tickets must be accounted for.