



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 22 Issue 36

Bulletin Edition

September 2, 2016

NEWS

Formation Apostolate responds to *Talitha Koum*

More than fifty BLD Newark members of the Formation Apostolate met last Saturday for the Second Annual BLD Newark Formation Gathering at the home of DCS Stewards Jovy and Emily Lucero. The assembly had two main purposes: (1) to look back over the past year; and, (2) to re-energize and look ahead to the next twelve months.

The Gospel reading for last Saturday dovetailed perfectly with the objectives of the Gathering. In St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus told the Parable of the Talents, which emphasizes the importance of using the talents given to us to produce more. In a very real sense, it’s what the Apostolate has done over the past year and what it looks forward to doing into the next year and beyond.

Jesus’ Aramaic words from St. Mark’s Gospel, *“Talitha koum”* started the afternoon’s Ministry discussions, and emerged as its recurring theme; as translated, Christ’s command tells us to “Arise.” As the past year was reviewed for the various Formation Ministries – Discipling, Intercessory, Service, Teaching, Witness and Coach Development, and Word – everyone concurred that the Apostolate had obeyed.



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COUNSELS

Being True Disciples

THEME: We bear the character of Jesus when we let God’s counsel guide our actions.

WORD: Wis 9:13-18b / Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14-17
Phmn 9-10,12-17 / Lk 14:25-33

ORDER: *“Come after me... be my disciple.”* Lk 14:27

REFLECTION:

For September, the Order discerned for the BLD Community is: *“Come after me...be my disciple.”* (Lk 14:27). Jesus is not asking us only to be His followers who will subscribe to His teachings and methods and imitate His lifestyle. He commands us to be His true disciples who must bear His character – one who allows God to guide our minds and hearts; one who maintains a faithful relationship with God; one who is a trustworthy steward of His gifts; and more importantly, one who is compassionate to others. Jesus makes it clear in His Sermon on the Mount that eternal reward will depend on the choices that we make here on earth; either we follow our selfish inclinations or we grow in Christ-like character.

The theme for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time states: We bear the character of Jesus when we let God’s counsel guide our action. Jesus, our Savior, was perfectly obedient to the Father’s plan of salvation. He remained willing and determined to accomplish His purpose on earth, despite seeing the suffering He would endure by such obedience. Likewise, we are asked to be obedient to God and to trust in His plan for our life. There are many obstacles along the way, but the one who follows His counsel will finish strong and is rewarded. We are given this week’s promise:

Promise of the Week

The Lord our God... prosper(s) the work of our hands. (Ps 90:17)

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The Things My Heart Finds Peace With



A recent Singles Ministry Friday Worship had the following reflection. We have included it here in this issue of Covenant News because its powerful message applies, not just to the Singles and Generation Y, but to all of us.

Thank you, Singles Ministry!

If a tree falls in the forest, and nobody is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

If someone orders food, and they don't take a picture of it, did they even eat it?

If a member of the Singles Ministry leads Friday's prayers, and he doesn't put it on snapchat or social media, does he love Jesus?

These are the philosophical questions that plague and baffle our society today. Arguments, studies, and buzzfeed posts delving into the concept of how "Generation Y" / aka "Millennials" / aka "the majority of us Singles" are commonly associated with the ideals of entitlement and narcissism. To make matters worse, mass marketing capitalizes on these tendencies and vices, inflating concepts like celebrity and political ego, and producing more and more media to heighten the idea of "self."

In other words, the world is telling us, "Come, I've kept this seat nice and warm, just for special, special you. Now come recline at table in the place of honor."

See, this is the world. This is how the world is crafting us, conditioning us, molding us. We are told and shown that this is the norm; and as if we're in 6th grade again, we learn that we'll be left behind if we don't keep up. So we join in. We buy these clothes, we take our selfies, we make decisions for our own gain, and we finally get to sit at this place of honor, content with our high and mighty-ness.

And for everyone playing Pokemon Go, how long do you typically own a gym? An hour? Two hours? That's what I'm saying right here. Believe it or not, Pokemon Go is revealing the transient nature of social class and fleeting highs of human nature. We feel like we're at the top, the best of the best, until a 10-year old with 4 Vaporeons, two Pidgeys, and a Weedle shows us how easily we can fall.

And when the actual real world pushes us to the ground, we question our efforts, we question our motives and our time spent in getting to this place.

When life starts kicking us down, we ask, "Why do I have to work so much?"

When life comes easy to others, we ask, "Why can't I have a life like that?"

We see the changing standards of the world again, and make the declaration that we are not enough, and must leave our throne of comfort and pride, and begin the cycle again.

Hmmm...

...It's as if, Jesus knew that satisfying our own desires and selfishness would not bring us joy.

Luke chapter 14, verse 11 says: "**For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but one who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

...It's as if, Jesus knew that the world is not where we truly belong, but rather, a test for us to be transformed and to discern God's true calling for us.

Romans chapter 12 verse 2: "**Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.**"

Our Father promises us, that when we conduct our affairs in humility, we will be loved more than a giver of gifts. He promises us, that the more we humble ourselves, the more we will find favor in Christ.

And when we turn our eyes towards the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, He promises us that we will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

Love, favor with God, resurrection with Him; these are the things that my heart knows are good and acceptable and perfect. These are the things my heart finds peace in.



These things I will trade the world for.

FR. PAUL SPEAKS

During this month of September, we find two feasts dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. They are her birthday on September 8th and the feast of her Seven Sorrows on September 15th.



They are celebrated as memorials rather than feasts; that does not mean they are unimportant. Mary's conception ranks as a solemnity on December 8th, because of her uniqueness. The mystery in the conception of Mary is that she was kept free from original sin by the anticipated work of the redeeming Jesus. That means that the major action of Jesus was her conception, not her birth, which happened in the normal course of events. People get confused when they mix up the virgin birth (the birth of Jesus from Mary) with the birth/conception of Mary. Even if her conception is most unusual and unique, her birth is also celebrated, because now the invisible work of God becomes visible in the life and actions of this holy woman.

Her seven sorrows are less known, even though we find them in Scripture. The feast explicitly connects them to Mary, although the main hero and actor in these events is Jesus Himself, as is true with every devotion to Mary. Since Mary was implicated in the redemption of the Lord, it is appropriate to remember the human feelings she felt during these painful moments in the life of her Son. The following are the traditional moments commemorating the sufferings of Mary:

- 1) In the presentation narrative, the prophecy of Simeon in the temple, forty days after the birth of Jesus; he told the Holy Family of the future sword of sorrow that would pierce the heart of Mary.
- 2) The flight into Egypt – which can be likened to leaving your native country with all the difficulties we see in present day migrants.
- 3) The loss of Jesus in the temple - the beginning of fulfillment of Prophet and Teacher, even in the young Jesus
- 4) The way of the cross. Could you imagine... ➔➔

COUNSELS

from page 1

For the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the theme is: We bear the character of Jesus when we are reconciled with God and our fellowmen. We are created to develop a deep and sincere relationship with God and to serve Him through our fellowmen. Misunderstanding, and perhaps abuse, sever this bond, making us feel incomplete, isolated and lost. Reconciliation is the key to bringing back the joy into one's life. Jesus started His public ministry preaching about repentance and turning back to God (Mt 4:17) and He ended it by forgiving even those who crucified Him. This is the same mission that Christ wants us to pursue – to be instruments of reconciliation and peace between man and God, and to lead everyone to true repentance. For **“there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”** (Lk 15:10).

The theme for 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time is: We bear the character of Jesus when we are trustworthy stewards of the gifts and talents He has given us. God has entrusted to us the stewardship of His gifts. He expects us to be honest, trustworthy and faithful in using these blessings for the building of His Kingdom here on earth. We are indeed made to realize that we **“were enriched in every way”** (1 Cor 1:5), not that these gifts and blessings are our own possessions, but that we are to use them in community-building and in our mission and evangelization work. We must share these resources and talents to alleviate the social standing of the underprivileged, restore their self-worth and dignity, and allow them to experience God's love and compassion. Thus, we become witnesses to the Lord's promise to the lowly: **“He raises the needy from the dust... Seats them with princes...”** (Ps 113:7-8).
...Continued on page 4

- ➔ ...the pain of this mother as she meets her Son on the way to a horrible death?
- 5) The Crucifixion - enough said as Mary stood beneath the cross suffering with her Son (compassion) and cooperating in our redemption that was accomplished by her dying Son.
 - 6) The taking down of the body of Jesus from the cross. It is all over except the pain.
 - 7) The burial of Jesus. The final moment of pain which gave birth to a glorious resurrection.

I have deliberately avoided giving Scripture references. They are easily found. Go to your bible for “lectio divina.”
- Fr. Paul

Formation Apostolate responds... from page 1

Evidence of first fruits was the presence at the Formation Gathering of many members of a recent ME class now on immersion rotation with the Service Ministry, who along with their class shepherds have already injected much energy into the Community. Positive changes have also developed: from streamlining the prayer petitions process, to improvements to Saturday Teachings; from the Service Ministry's efforts beyond just preparing Friday fellowship provisions, to the changes many have noticed in the Covenant News. And in the past year, forty-plus disciples have been covenanted, and new names have been added to BLD Newark's roster of sharers and coaches.

Indeed, the Formation Apostolate has defended, promoted and lived the Word. Yet its work is ongoing and its Ministries continue to emulate the servant to whom ten talents were given - finding joy in producing more for our Master.

COUNSELS from page 3

The theme for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time is: We bear the character of Jesus when we reach out to the poor and care for them. In Scriptures, there are many instances where Jesus shows His deep concern and love for the poor. He never looks away from people. He understands their needs and addresses them. There are many people around us who are suffering from injustice and starvation... people who are dying of hunger, disease and war. If we were to bear the compassionate heart of our Lord, then we would notice those who are deprived and we would be moved with pity to help them. There are big and small ways where we can help and extend spiritual and corporal works of mercy and so, receive the blessing of this promise: ***"Blessed is the one... who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives bread to the hungry"*** (Ps 146:5a,6b-7).

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we do not ask that You take away the struggles and challenges we experience in our life. But we pray that You continue to give us the strength to be like Christ in our character and ways and be truly called His worthy followers. So that when we reach the end of our faith journey, You will reward us, not by our achievements, but by the kind of life which imitates Christ in obedience, in holiness, in faithfulness and above all in charity.*

Mercy Merci Raffle Fundraiser
Drawing Date: Friday, October 14, 2016

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

LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings	\$ 3,019	\$ 91,431
Mission Collections	\$ 53	\$ 5,258
Fundraising Raffle	\$ 1,610	\$ 2,730

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teaching Calendar

- Teachings for Saturday, September 17 - 1 to 6 pm:
- Basic Bible Seminar (LSS 1-46)
 - Christian Maturity Program 1, Part II (LSS 1-45)
 - Advanced Intercession (LSS 1-43)

Newark Archdiocese Jubilee of Mercy Event at Divine Mercy Parish in Rahway

Morning of Mercy Mini Pilgrimage
 Saturday, September 24
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Parish
 232 Central Ave.
 Rahway, NJ

Guest Speaker:
 Msgr. Joseph Reilly
 Missionary of Mercy

Msgr Reilly was named by Pope Francis as the Archdiocesan Missionary of Mercy. After his talk, there will be time for adoration, confession and passing through the Holy Door. The event will conclude with a Eucharistic Celebration.

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

Marriage Encounter # 47
November 18-20, 2016
 Hotel Executive Suites
 30 Minue Street, Carteret, NJ
 Contact email: MLA@bldnewark.com

Marshaling		Schedule	Date	Apostolate
			Sep 9	Evangelization
			Sep 16	Formation
			Sep 23	Management
Sep 30	Mission			