



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

A Statement in Support of the Dream Act of 2017 by the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey

(source: RCAN.org)

September 5, 2017

We the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, are pastors to over four million men, women and children who trace their roots to almost every country of the world and represent every race and ethnicity.

That is one of the reasons we ask the New Jersey Congressional delegation to support the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615/H.R. 3440). The Dream Act of 2017 would protect almost 800,000 DACA youth (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) who entered the United States as children and know America as their only home. These youth call themselves Dreamers because they seek the American dream of liberty.

Tens of thousands of Dreamers call New Jersey home. They serve in our military. They are honor students in our colleges and universities. They are leaders in our parishes. They enrich the economic vitality and stability of our communities. Unfortunately, throughout the nation, many Dreamers live with anxiety and fear that at any time they might be separated from their families and deported to a country they do not know.

As Bishops, we encourage all people of good will to love their neighbors and to welcome strangers. We write to you, our Representatives in Congress, urging you to support and to co-sponsor the Dream Act of 2017. In addition, we ask you to support in Congress a comprehensive immigration reform that includes establishing a path towards citizenship.

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Guiding the People God Sends Our Way

THEME: Our hearts are enlightened when we are reconciled with others in the love of God.

WORD: Ez 33:7-9 ~ Ps 95:1-2,6-7,8-9
Rom 13:8-10 ~ Mt 18:15-20

ORDER: "...*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"
(Rom 13:9)

REFLECTION:

*I*n the book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord appointed him watchman for the house of Israel. Just as Ezekiel was given the task to guide his fellow Israelites who were stumbling through a wrong path, so is a Christian today commanded to guide a brother or sister who is headed towards worldly traps. The responsibility is heavy because we are made accountable to God when we fail to evangelize the people He sends our way. The prophet Ezekiel was told to teach about right and wrong, and to repent and leave their evil ways behind. Let us abide by our Christian duty to follow God's commandments by being a guide to our brothers and sisters, and by leading them to the path of sanctity.

The psalmist reminds us that if we hear God's voice, let us not harden our hearts. Psalm 95 calls the people to praise and worship God, the King of all creatures and Shepherd of the flock. Meribah, which means contention in Hebrew, is the place where the Israelites grumbled due to lack of food and water and other conveniences they had when they were in Egypt. God directed Moses to order

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Promise of the Week

"If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." (Mt 18:19)

The following article is a reflection based on the Gospel reading for August 23, 2017, the date of BLD Newark's 25th Anniversary:

I Think that the Answer is Both!

The Mass reading for August 23, the actual day of BLD Newark's twenty-fifth anniversary, is about the laborers hired by the Landowner at different times of the day. Some had worked the entire day, and yet, they did not receive anything extra. They got the same compensation as those who were hired for only a few hours.

I used to wonder what Jesus really meant by this parable. How could the Kingdom of heaven be likened to it, when some had worked much less than the others? It didn't seem fair.

But then, after more reflection, I eventually realized at least three things about it that makes total sense (because often, it's in those Word Sharing Circles where I find such insights).

1. Heaven is already heaven. Regardless of when that day comes, how could I possibly demand to receive more than that?
2. There is infinite space in heaven for everyone.
3. Since He's God, ultimately, entrance is up to Him.

We are all members of BLD; some have been here for only a few months; others, since it started in 1992. In Community, there is enough love and fellowship for all who are currently here, and all of those whom we have yet to invite to join us in the vineyard we call His BLD Community.

Of course, when Jesus said, "**Love one another,**" I believe that He did not mean for us to wait for later before beginning to do that. He meant work on it right away! Meanwhile the story of those day laborers points to salvation, not just for those who were hired early. I think that it also tells of how, what we receive at the end of the day is entirely up to Him.

Man may never be able to settle the arguments these spur about how to get to heaven. Will it simply be based on faith, or faith as demonstrated by love and works? (cf Jas 2:14-26)

What BLD has done for 25 years now provides the simplest, best, and surest answer on how to gain entrance into heaven. Just as we have been doing all along, let's believe... AND let's do the works He wants us to do.

I think that it's in our best interest to do both.

"I'll never look at a baby pacifier the same way again!"



About a month ago, the priest at our parish gave an excellent homily that I really liked. I liked it so much that I still remember his essential message and thought of writing it down to share with family and friends.

One of the readings that Sunday was about Elijah, who was fleeing persecution and felt that God had abandoned him. While Elijah was in a cave seeking shelter, the Lord instructed him to go outside because He was going to be passing by. Then, a violent wind came by, then an earthquake, followed by fire. But God was not in the wind, not in the earth's tremors, nor in the fire. Then came a "**tiny whispering sound**" that somehow, Elijah heard, and then he knew that God was there. (cf 1 Kgs 19:9a,11-13; Sunday, Aug 13)

Our parish priest pointed out that amid the tumult that sometimes surrounds us, we must remain still, and like Elijah, be attentive to where God and His love are. For Elijah, God was in that tiny sound. For many of us, God's love will likely be manifested in similarly simple things; simple and yet when we discover His presence, the discovery can truly be deeply profound.

To drive home his point, the priest related the story of a woman who was desperately poor. With what seemed like the last of her meager resources, she bought some food for her baby. After giving the baby the meal, out of despair because of their situation, the woman bowed her head and started sobbing. Then, after a few moments, she looked up and through her tears, she saw God's love and comfort in this simplest of gestures: her baby showering her with love by offering up to her mother, her pacifier.

At the end of that homily, and with more than a few tears in my own eyes, I realized that, I'll never look at a baby's pacifier the same way again.

THE BLD NEWARK SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR THE UNBORN

During the BLD Newark 25th Anniversary Celebrations, the Community's Spiritual Adoption Program for the Unborn was launched. In the three weeks since, over 200 individuals have registered, and are now actively praying for unborn babies.

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A Statement in Support of the Dream Act of 2017...

(from page 1)

While we support securing our nation's borders from those who would harm us, such actions and policies ought not to prevent us from protecting our Dreamers. Jesus taught that we will be judged on the basis of how we treat the most vulnerable members of society (Matthew 25: 31-46). Today, our Dreamers are among the most vulnerable in our society.

We urge our New Jersey Congressional delegation to stand on the right side of judgement by supporting the Dream Act of 2017.

As for us, we stand in solidarity with our Dreamers and we are ready to assist Congress, our state and our communities in the development and implementation of comprehensive immigration reform.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

Archbishop, Archdiocese of Newark

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M.

Bishop, Diocese of Trenton

Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan

Bishop, Diocese of Camden

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli

Bishop, Diocese of Paterson

Most Reverend James F. Checchio

Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen

Most Reverend Kurt Burnette

Bishop, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic

Most Reverend Yousif B. Habash

Bishop, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese

Most Reverend John W. Flesey

Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Newark

Most Reverend Manuel Cruz

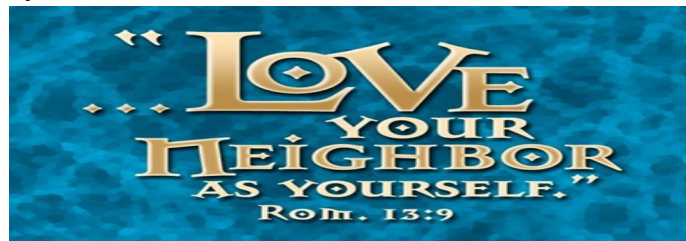
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Newark

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

the rock to yield water, whereupon, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff and water gushed out in abundance for the community and their livestock to drink. Harden not our hearts and humbly ask for God's generous blessings as He did at Meribah.

All the commandments of the law is summed up by St. Paul as,



St. Paul added that, *“Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.”* (Rom 13:10) My brothers and sisters in Christ, are we ready to take upon our shoulders the responsibility of guiding the people that God sends our way, for them to follow His commandment to love God and love neighbors? Let us obey these commandments and be responsible to guide our brothers and sisters in the right path.

The Gospel of Matthew in chapter 18, verse 15-20, tells us of the means to resolve conflict between an offender and the offended party, to bring about repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. The offending party may or may not listen. If he does not listen, then seek the help of others in the community to establish all the facts. If he still does not listen, tell the Church. Note that the emphasis is on restoring the broken relationship by seeking the help of other Christians who hopefully, will pray and seek solutions for a reconciliation based on Christian love and wisdom. If he still refuses to listen, even to the Church, then treat him as you would a tax collector or a Gentile. The religious minded Jews regarded Gentiles and tax collectors as unclean and they resorted to shunning them. However, the Gospel tells us that Jesus had fellowship with Gentiles and tax collectors; He even made one His apostle. Jesus accepts everyone who is open to receive pardon, healing and restoration.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pray for those who offend you.
2. Be the first to extend the hand of peace and ask for forgiveness.
3. Be open to offer and/or accept fraternal correction.

THE BLD NEWARK SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR THE UNBORN (from page 2)

The Program 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.

In the first month of life...

Do You Know About The **MIRACLE** of Life?

At The Moment of Conception...

Human DNA That Has Never Existed Before...

...A Unique Human Being's DNA is Created.

An Unborn Baby's Heart Starts To Beat... Only 22 Days After Conception...

...Before Most Women Even Know They Are Pregnant.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children Saturday Sept. 9 2017

LORD'S PROVISION
Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,157	\$ 47,900
Love Offerings	\$ 812	\$ 43,872
Mission Collections	\$ 160	\$ 4,162

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 16 - 1 to 6 pm:

- * Christian Parenting (LSS 1-48)
- * Christian Maturity Program 1, Part 1 (LSS 1-47)
- * Shepherds' Training (LSS 1-46)



Life in the Spirit Seminar #48

Salubungan - Friday, September 1
Seminar - October 13-15, 2017

"Come Holy Spirit ..."

Please contact: [Earl & Flo Manguiat](#)

John 6 Crossing #16

October 6-8, 2017
Fellowship Deaconry
Basking Ridge, NJ

"... let the children come to me ..."



Please contact: [Tony & Marlene Brillantes](#)

Marriage Encounter #49



November 17-19, 2017
Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue St, Carteret, NJ

Please contact: [Efren & Yollie Cruz](#)

"Unlocking the Mystery" - Bible Study by Jeff Cavins

Divine Mercy Parish, Room 104 classroom
September 18 - November 6, 2017
8 Sessions every Monday night from 7:15-9:15 pm
Contacts: Ray/Susie Atienza, BLD Assisted Parish Coordinators
Tel: 908-463-0449, Email: dmpbiblestudy@gmail.com



Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Sep 15	Management
	Sep 22	Mission
	Sep 29	Pastoral
	Oct 6	Evangelization