



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

COUNSELS

UN: Pope appeals to ‘Put aside sectorial interests’

- Tweet for 72nd Session of the General Assembly

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 / ANNE KURIAN / POPE AND HOLY SEE
(source: zenith.org)

“I encourage the leaders of the world to put aside sectorial interests, to seek together the common good of humanity,” was Pope Francis’ tweet on September 12, 2017 when the 72nd Session opened of the United Nations General Assembly at New York.

The appeal was taken from his September 15, 2015 address at the UN headquarters, given before 193 member countries. “The praiseworthy international juridical construction of the United Nations Organization and all its realizations, perfectible as every human work is, at the same time, necessary; it can be the pledge of a sure and happy future for future generations. And it will be so if the representatives of States are able to put aside sectorial and ideological interests, and seek sincerely the service of the common good.”

During his intervention, the Holy Father stressed: “The world claims from all governments an effective, practical <and> constant will, of concrete steps and immediate measures, to preserve and improve the natural environment and overcome as soon as possible the phenomenon of social and economic exclusion, with its sad consequences of the trafficking of human beings, of the sale of organs and human tissues, the sexual exploitation of children, slave labor, including prostitution, the traffic of drugs and arms, of terrorism and international organized crime.”

He also put on guard against a “twofold danger: limiting oneself to bureaucratic work, consisting of writing long lists of good intentions – ends, objectives and statistical indicators, or believing that a unique, theoretical a priori solution will give an answer to all the challenges.” ...Continued on page 4

Lessons on Forgiveness

THEME: Our hearts are enlightened when we forgive others and treat them with compassion.

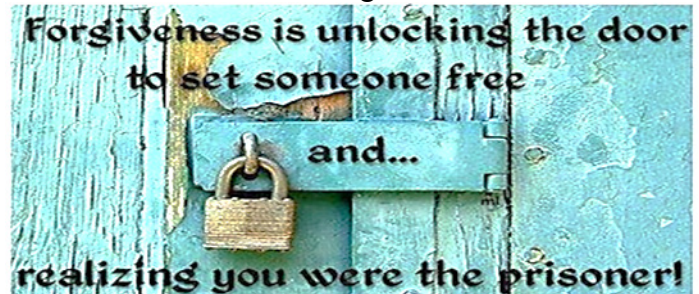
WORD: Sir 27:30-28:7 ~ Ps 103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12
Rom 14:7-9 ~ Mt 18:21-35

ORDER: ***Forgive your brother from your heart.***
(cf Mt 18:35)

REFLECTION:

The first reading from Sirach tells us that we must forgive our neighbor if we want God to forgive our own sins. Sirach observes ordinary circumstances of life and addresses: “How do I live wisely?” He then reflects on our shared humanity and on our covenant relationship with God. He considers anger, vengeance, and forgiveness and God’s response to them.

Sirach’s insights have a two-fold application. Firstly, He exhorts people to let go of anger and any desire for retaliation to always be ready to reconcile. Secondly, He emphasizes each person’s need for forgiveness. We think about human forgiveness, but Sirach focuses on divine forgiveness.



God will heal those who forgive their neighbors, as His promise to us this week says: “***Forgive your neighbor the wrong done to you, then... your own sins will be forgiven.***” (Sir 28:2) ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“Forgive your neighbor the wrong done to you, then... your own sins will be forgiven.” (Sir 28:2)

Statement of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin on the Rescission of DACA Executive Order



September 5, 2017

(source: RCAN.org)

The decision to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals executive order is malicious.

It is plainly and clearly wrong for this Administration to use as a political tool the lives, futures and security of some 800,000 young people whose only crime, if you ever could call it that, was that they lovingly and obediently accompanied their parents in pursuit of the dream of freedom and opportunity.

Whether or not the previous administration had authority to institute DACA does not matter. The 800,000 Dreamers affected by the rescission are people. They live in our neighborhoods, attend our schools, fight for our country, and contribute actively in our workplaces. They are contributing to this nation's future and prosperity. They have followed the rules that have been in place, always praying that Congress would step up to the plate and craft intelligent, heartfelt long term solutions to a broken immigration system.

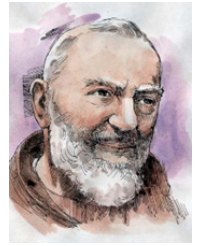
One can't hide behind the term "legality" in rescinding DACA. That is an abandonment of humanity, and abandonment of talented and hopeful young people who are as American as you and I.

The rule of law, first, last and always, must provide a humane, moral code to organize, protect and advance society based on the best ideals and beliefs in our hearts and minds. Catholic teaching calls all people to make a commitment to uphold the dignity of every person and to work for the common good of our nation. Rescinding DACA without having in place through Congress an equivalent and permanent protection for these Americans does not advance society or exemplify our best ideals and beliefs. It is, rather, an abandoning of humanity.

Today, the Administration not only has closed borders; it also has closed minds and hearts.

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (Feast Day – Saturday, September 23)

Padre Pio was a kind and caring man with a deep piety. He was born of simple, hardworking farming parents on May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, southern Italy. As a child, Padre Pio felt drawn to the priesthood. He was tutored privately until his entry to the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at the age of 15. Of feeble health but strong will, with the help of grace he completed the required studies and was ordained a priest in 1910.



Padre Pio had the ability to read the hearts of the people who came to him for confessions. Padre Pio used the confessional to bring both sinners and devout souls closer to God; he would know just the right word of counsel or encouragement that was needed.

On September 20, 1918 the five wounds of our Lord's passion appeared on his body, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the Catholic Church. Countless persons were attracted to his confessional and many more received his saintly counsel and spiritual guidance through correspondence.

His whole life was marked by long hours of prayer and continual austerity. His letters to his spiritual directors reveal the ineffable suffering, physical and spiritual, which accompanied him all through his life. They also reveal his deep union with God, his burning love for the Blessed Eucharist and Our Blessed Lady. Worn out by over half a century of intense suffering and constant apostolic activity in San Giovanni Rotondo, Padre Pio was called to his heavenly reward on September 23, 1968. After a public funeral, which attracted over 100,000 mourners, his body was entombed in the crypt of Our Lady of Grace Church. Increasing numbers flock to his tomb from all parts of the world and many testify to spiritual and temporal graces received

Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina a Saint on June 16, 2002 in one of the largest attended liturgies ever in the Vatican's history. The Pope remarked that Padre Pio's spirituality and suffering are a valuable model for modern times. The Pope reemphasized his message at the end of the canonization liturgy by announcing that Padre Pio's feast day, September 23rd, is an "obligatory memorial" in the Church's general liturgical calendar.

Source for this article: padrepio.org / National Center for Padre Pio, 111 Barto Rd, Barto, Pa 19504

Lord, I am not worthy...

The Gospel reading for Monday, September 18 is about St. Luke's version of the centurion who had asked Jesus to heal a slave of his who was ill (St. Matthew's account is almost identical; meanwhile, in that of St. John's, a similar episode involved a royal official whose son was near death). As Jesus was heading to the centurion's house, he sent friends to inform Jesus, "**Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof.**" (Lk 7:6)

For almost all of us in BLD, the centurion's words should sound very familiar, because it's part of what we say at Mass prior to approaching the altar to receive the Eucharist. This was a change that the Church made a few years ago, which up until I was asked to reflect on this particular Gospel passage, I didn't quite understand. I thought that what we used to say, "I am not worthy to receive You," was more personal. And it didn't seem to me that the standard explanation for the change, which was that by quoting the centurion, it made what we say at Mass more "biblical," was sufficient justification for the change. Now, two things have made me see things differently.

I found the first in the Bible's footnotes for these verses. Since the Centurion was a Gentile, a Jew entering his house would have rendered the Jewish person "unclean." And yet, Christ was actually on His way to do just that, enter the Roman's house. So, this was an additional episode that pointed to how His salvation was really meant for everyone, Jew and Gentile alike. And in this instance, slaves too! My being originally from the Philippines definitely places me in the Gentile category, and this footnote has added an understanding to the meaning of the Mass response that I didn't have before.

Then, the internet provided this second new insight by using an analogy: what if the Pope suddenly announced that he was going to my house for a visit, would I frantically rush to clean things up at home? The obvious answer is "yes," but this led me into thinking about how normally, on any given day, I wouldn't make much effort to clean up the messes I cause at home. As Jesus is about to enter under my roof at Communion, I really have to frantically rush to clean up!

Lord, it is true that "I am not worthy to receive You." I am equally unworthy "**that you should enter under my roof.**" That new Mass response has made it clearer that what You did was truly meant for me, and it has also made more urgent, the need for me to be ready.

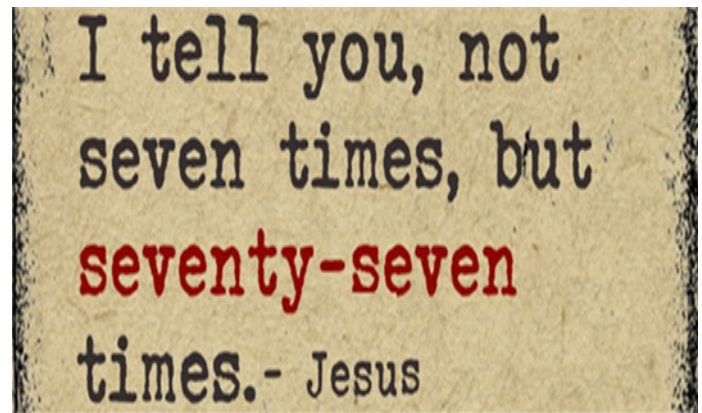
COUNSELS

(from page 1)

Paul reminds us in the Second Reading about the fundamental privilege which the incarnation has conferred on all humankind. Christ, through His death and resurrection, atoned for all the sins of the world. In so doing, He fulfilled the Father's plan to make us His adopted sons and daughters. By our baptism, we belong to Him. By Christ's victory over death through the resurrection, He has obtained a resurrection for all, and earned for us eternal life and happiness.

The Gospel reading opens with Peter asking Jesus how far forgiveness should extend. If he forgave seven times, would that be sufficient? In the Jewish tradition, forgiveness, apparently, extended to three offenses and the fourth would be subject to punishment. Forgiving seven times goes far beyond the "rule of three", and also draws on the Jewish symbolism of seven, signifying perfection and completion.

Jesus shocked Peter and the disciples by emphasizing that it is not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Forgiveness, according to Jesus, has no limits and no bounds.



He illustrates such overwhelming forgiveness through a parable that had three scenes. In the first, the King forgives the excessive amount of debt of a slave, who had begged for forgiveness. The second scene presented a tremendous contrast when the same slave refused to forgive someone else's much smaller debt. The parable concluded with the King calling back the unforgiving servant, and punishing him for his lack of mercy and failure to forgive.

This brings us to a lesson for all of us to follow, which is in this week's Order: "**Forgive your brother from your heart.**" (Mt 18:35) God will not be happy if we seek revenge on our offending brother, and He will punish us if we do not forgive our brother from our heart. The parable very clearly ...Continued on page 4

UN: Pope appeals

(from page 1)

The Pontiff also stressed the need to involve the populations. "Integral human development and the full exercise of human dignity cannot be imposed. They must be built and deployed by each one, by each family, in communion with other men, and in a just relation with all the circles where human society develops – friends, communities, villages and communes, schools, businesses and labor unions, provinces and nations, among others."

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

emphasizes God's extravagant mercy and compassion, and the necessity for us to exercise the same mercy and compassion in our own lives by forgiving others even up to seventy-seven times.

Prayer:

Father God, we acknowledge and accept that not one of us can go through life without getting hurt. We judge, condemn and put down others. Even brothers, sisters, friends betray one another. But no matter how deeply hurt we are, Your teaching is clear: we have no option but to forgive again and again and again. And the example we have to follow is Your Son Jesus, our Savior. He was mocked, scourged, spat upon, pierced and nailed on the cross to die even when He was God. Yet He went through it all and forgave those who rejected Him and caused Him harm and death. Who are we, human beings, not to be as humble, as magnanimous and as loving to those who have wronged us? Who are we to judge, condemn and malign others?

Lord, help us to always remember this week's theme: "Our hearts are enlightened when we forgive others and treat them with compassion." Soften our hearts and enable us to forgive from our hearts, so that we can cling on to Your promise: "**Forgive your neighbor the wrong done to you, then... your own sins will be forgiven.**" (Sir 28:2) - Amen

DIRECTIONS:

1. Set enmity aside, hate not your neighbor, and overlook faults.
2. Soften your hearts and be quick to forgive.

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LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,174	\$ 49,074
Love Offerings	\$ 1,260	\$ 45,132
Mission Collections	\$ 90	\$ 4,252
Flood Love Offerings	\$ 1,167	\$ 1,167

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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 #18
October 6 - 8, 2017
Fellowship Deaconry
Basking Ridge, NJ
Contacts: 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
October 9 - November 27, 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	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Sep 22	Mission
		Sep 29	Pastoral
		Oct 6	Evangelization
		Oct 13	Formation