



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

Pope at Audience: God wants us to join Him in Paradise

- Tells Faithful in St. Peter's Square That Heaven Is Offered to All Who Come Back to God

OCTOBER 25, 2017 / DEBORAH CASTELLANO
LUBOV / GENERAL AUDIENCE (Source:zenit.org)

God wants us to join Him in Paradise, so He waits for us to repent, even up until the very last minute.

Pope Francis stressed this during this morning's General Audience in St. Peter's Square.

As he continued his catecheses on Christian hope, his last catechesis on the theme, the Pope specifically reflected on the theme: "Heaven, the Goal of Our Hope."

"Paradise" is one of the last words spoken by Jesus on the Cross, addressed to the good thief, the Jesuit Pope recalled, encouraging those gathered to pause a moment on that scene. There, on Calvary, Jesus meets this sinner and opens to him the door of His Kingdom.

Francis noted that this is interesting because it's the only time the word "Paradise" appears in the Gospels, namely when Jesus promises it to a "'poor devil' who, on the wood of the Cross, had the courage to address to Him the most humble request: 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'" (Luke 23:42)."

While this thief didn't have good works to assert, he entrusted himself to Jesus, whom he recognizes as innocent, good, so different from himself.

"That word of humble repentance," Francis said, "was enough to touch Jesus' heart."

The good thief, the Pontiff reminded, reminds us of our true condition before God: "that we are His children, that He has compassion for us, that He is disarmed every time we manifest to Him nostalgia for His love."
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COUNSELS

Which Commandment in the Law is the Greatest?

THEME: We grow in holiness when we manifest love of God and neighbor through our actions.

WORD: Ex 22:20-26 ~ Ps 18:2-3,3-4,47,51
1 Thes 1:5c-10 ~ Mt 22:34-40

ORDER: **"You shall love the Lord, your God... You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**
- Mt 22:37,39

REFLECTION:

"Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" (Mt 22:36)

In the Gospel, Jesus was asked this question by the Pharisee who was considered to be a scholar, a lawyer, and an expert when it came to observance of the law. He wanted to test Jesus to see which of the Ten Commandments He would choose. To pick one over the rest would be to contradict and demote the others. However, he had lost sight of what was really important, which was to love God first.

One could argue that the Ten Commandments that were handed to Moses on Mount Sinai by God did not mention for anyone to love God, or for that matter, to love your neighbor. Moses, however, later asserted the exhortation to love God in Deuteronomy 6:5.



...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

"If he cries out to me, I will listen; for I am compassionate." - Ex 22:26b

Still Alive and Beating...

Next Thursday, November 2nd, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed. In the Mass reading for that day, taken from the Book of Wisdom, the first verse from chapter 3 starts with, **“The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God,”** and in the third verse states that **“...they are in peace.”**

The following true story is about a heart that lives on, even after death:

As a kid in middle school, Konrad Reuland met future baseball hall of famer, Rod Carew. He was so excited about that meeting that he told everyone he knew about it. Little did either of them know that decades later, their paths would cross once again.

In 2015, while he was out on a golf course, Rod Carew suffered a massive heart attack. Although an operation saved his life, they determined that he would eventually still need a life-saving heart transplant.

After middle school, Konrad Reuland went on to play collegiate sports at Notre Dame and Stanford. For several seasons, he was also in the NFL (with the New York Jets and the Baltimore Ravens). At 29, he seemed to be in perfect physical shape, but in November of 2016, he suffered a brain aneurysm that left him in a coma. He died several weeks later. In his driver's license renewal earlier in the year, he had discussed with his mother if he should become an organ donor; turns out that he had decided to say yes to that particular question on the license renewal application. Before he passed away, as he lay motionless on a hospital bed, his mother had laid her head on his chest and listened to her son's heart. A few days later, doctors performed a heart transplant on the 71-year old Rod Carew.

At first, neither family knew whose heart it was; but the timing of events that led up to the surgery made them suspect that they were now connected by Konrad's gift of life. Soon, the Reuland family found out that the beneficiary was his boyhood baseball hero.

In March of 2017, the American Heart Association arranged a meeting between the two families. At the meeting, Dr. Ralf Reuland took out a stethoscope. Then he and his wife Mary took turns listening to their son's still alive and beating heart.

*As we remember our loved ones, especially on All Souls Day, it truly is comforting to know that we can look forward to being in **“the hands of God.”** →→*

Pope at Audience...

(from page 1)

Francis recalled how often in hospital rooms or prison cells, this miracle is repeated innumerable times. “There is no person, no matter how badly he lived, for whom only despair remains and for whom grace is prohibited,” he said, recalling how we all present ourselves before God with empty hands.

“Every time that a man, doing the last examination of conscience of his life, discovers that the deficits are greater compared to his good works,” the Pope highlighted, “he must not be discouraged, but entrust himself to God's mercy. And this gives us hope; this opens our heart!”

God, the Father, waits for our return up to the end, like the Father in the Prodigal Son, Francis reminded.

“This is God: this is how He loves us!”

“Paradise is not a dream place or an enchanted garden. Paradise is the embrace with God, infinite Love, and we enter it thanks to Jesus, Who died on the Cross for us.

Where Jesus is, the Pontiff said, there is mercy and happiness, and where he is not, there is cold and darkness.

“In the hour of death, a Christian repeats to Jesus: ‘Remember me.’ And if there isn't any one who remembers us, Jesus is there, next to us.”

The Holy Father said Jesus wants to take us to the most beautiful place that exists.

“And He will bring to the Father's House all that is in us that still needs to be redeemed: the failures and mistakes of a whole life.”

Pope Francis said that this marks the end of our existence, namely when everything is fulfilled and is transformed in love.

“If we believe this,” the Holy Father said, “death ceases to make us afraid, and we can also hope to depart from this world serenely and with much trust.

→ *And that the loved ones whom we pray for will be there too. It will be a time when all our hearts will be alive and beating, together in praise and worship of our God.*





That sounds like a Christmas card, doesn't it? Maybe so, but it's always good to remember that there is nothing seasonal about God's wonderful and life-changing gifts. At any time of year, joy, love, wisdom, peace, forgiveness, and hope flow freely from His grace. His gifts shine like a

light in the darkness, leading us toward conversion whenever we open our hearts to receive them. Sometimes conversion happens at the speed of light. At other times, it moves at a snail's pace so that collecting all of God's gifts takes a lifetime. That's how it has been for me, more like a life-long process.

When I was much younger, I had a deeply-spiritual friend who was dealing with unfair criticism from a mean-spirited co-worker. When she told me that she was determined not to let the stress take away her peace, I realized that I had no idea what that kind of peace felt like. For a long time afterward, I prayed for inner peace. As my conversion progressed by baby steps, I came to experience many of God's marvelous gifts, but peace still eluded me.

As I learned to trust in God's goodness, I discovered joy. I found that, unlike happiness, joy came with background music. Christmas carols seemed to be playing in my heart. One time it was "Joy to the World" in the middle of April! On one occasion that I remember well, I was on my knees digging in the garden and humming "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" when I thought to myself: "If Jesus walked up to me right now and told me it was time to go, I wouldn't hesitate to take His hand." In that instant I knew what peace feels like, the peace that St. Paul says, "*surpasses all understanding*" (Phil 4:7). It had been a long time coming, but it was worth the wait. Later I realized that along with peace came a gift that, for me, has been even better: HOPE. St. Paul called it, "*eager expectation.*"

...How wonderful!

Does it seem like joy, peace, and hope are in short supply this year? If so, perhaps these →→

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

In Sunday's Gospel (Mt 22:37-40), Jesus reaffirmed what Moses said, "*You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" Then He added, "*This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.*"

So, does this commandment of loving God first, change or abolish any of the Ten Commandments? If not, the Decalogue must then be interpreted in light of this **commandment of love** and to the fullness of the law. To do this, the Decalogue must first be understood in the context of the Exodus. This was God's liberating event at the center of the Old Covenant. It is a path of life, a life freed from the slavery of sin. If you love God by walking in His footsteps and following His commandments, you shall live and multiply [CCC 2057]. The gift of the Ten Commandments and the Law is part of the covenant that God sealed with His own, a covenant made with His people in Horeb, for God loved us first. The Ten Commandments state what is required in the love of God and in the love of neighbor.

The Decalogue forms a coherent whole. Each one refers to each of the others and to all of them; they reciprocally condition one another. To transgress in one commandment is to commit an infraction against all the others and the whole Law. One cannot honor another person without blessing God his Creator. One cannot adore God without loving all men, who are His creatures. The Decalogue brings man's religious and social life into unity [CCC 2069]. ...*Continued on page 4*

→ hope-filled readings for the Holy Days of All Saints and All Souls will help:

"For in hope we were saved." (Rom 8:24)

"Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy."
(Ps 126:5)

"The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them... they are in peace... their hope [is] full of immortality." (Wis 3:1,4)

"And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Rom 5:5)

Don't wait until Christmas to look for joy, peace, and hope. God's gifts don't belong to just one season, and Joy to the World sounds beautiful any time of the year.

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

The full meaning was revealed in the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. If you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, then you will honor, not just the Ten Commandments, but ALL His commandments. Jesus said,

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (Jn 14:15)

Jesus summed it up very nicely with these two fundamental commandments, and they encompass all the laws and commands in Scripture.

The Ten Commandments in Exodus deal with our relationship with God and then our relationship with other people. One naturally flows out of the other. Jesus said that to love God supremely is the first and greatest Commandment. With this, we would have fulfilled the first four of the Ten Commandments.

Without a right relationship with God, our relationships with others will not be right, either. It then flows that if you love God, you should also love your neighbor as yourself. This would fulfill the rest of the Ten Commandments. Jesus said,

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” (Jn 15:12)

Obedience in itself does not lead to love, but love does lead to obedience. The more we know God, the more we love Him, and the more we love Him, the more it becomes a delight to serve Him and do His will. We grow in holiness when we manifest love of God and neighbor through our actions. ***“Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.”*** (Rom 13:10)

To love God, our neighbor, and ourselves, we must respond to live by that love and act on it; we must keep the commandments of God and of the Church. We need to perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy; accord our brothers and sisters respect, fairness, and justice; we need to uphold human dignity. ***“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”*** (1 Jn 3:18)

Ultimately, we must not forget this about love:

“Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 Jn 4:8)

Directions:

1. Do corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
2. Accord your brothers and sisters respect, fairness and justice.
3. Uphold human dignity.

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,990	\$ 57,710
Love Offerings	\$ 717	\$ 51,818
Mission Collections	\$ 62	\$ 5,039

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, NOV 4, 2016 - WASHING OF THE FEET /
AGONY IN THE GARDEN RETREAT

Community Event:

2000 Hail Marys

Saturday, Oct 28
Start: 8:30am
DMP Library

Teaching Calendar

Teachings for Saturday, Nov 11
- 1 to 6 pm:

- * Sienna Gifts Inventory (LSS 1-48)
- * CMP I - Part II (LSS 1-47)
- * Healing and Deliverance (LSS1-46)



What is God's plan in our married life?
Join the...
Marriage Encounter Weekend #49
Nov. 17-19, 2017
Hotel Executive Suite
30 Minue Street
Carteret, NJ 07008
Please email us at mia@bldnewark.com
BLD Newark

Support the BLD Newark 2017 Fundraiser!!!



First prize: a trip for 2 to go to the Holy Land!

Tickets are just \$2 each.

Raffle date: Friday, November 10, 2017



MARCH FOR LIFE
LOVE SAVES LIVES
MARCH FOR LIFE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Nov 3	Pastoral
		Nov 10	Evangelization
		Nov 17	Formation
		Nov 24	Management

BLD Community's 2000 Hail Marys for 10/28/2017

Guidelines:

1. Opening and Cleansing Prayers are posted at the doors. Please pray these appropriately.
2. Prayer leaders are ALL members of the ministry/class assigned to the slot. Please follow the prayer leader's guide.
3. Everyone will please stand when each petition is being read, you may sit/kneel at the start of the 100 Hail Mary's.
4. There will be no break during the prayers, leave the prayer area quietly for personal needs. A short meditation might be observed before the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Prayer Leaders' Guide:

1. Coordinator/head says the petition number (Petition # ____). All together, members will read the petition on the screen including the class/ministry's intentions/supplications.
2. Members of the ministry /class will ALL TOGETHER pray the Hail Mary, not only by 1 person but by all members of the group. And the congregation will answer: Holy Mary...
3. The more members: the stronger, louder and livelier your group's Hail Mary's will be, prayed solemnly and in unison. So, come all!
4. After the 100th Hail Mary, pause, wait for the song.
5. During this song, the next ministry/class prepares for the next 100 Hail Marys. Please quietly vacate your seats, leave the Rosary beads in the chairs and move to the back for the coming group.

Ministry/Class Head:

1. Please come up with prayer intentions/supplications of your ministry/class. Ask the Holy Spirit what your class/ministry needs and as you lift these up, the BLD community will hear and pray with you, and say AMEN.
2. Those with 2 slots may have different prayer intentions.
3. Submit these brief intentions to Tito Dens Mantes at <pmantes@gmail.com> NOT LATER than Oct.23, Monday, for inclusion in the petition slides.
4. Upon arrival check by the door/ IM timekeeper-in-charge for the schedule/actual time while our 2000 Hail Marys is in progress.
5. Also check for the seating arrangement of your group. It will be the left or right side, facing the Eucharist as you enter the library.
6. We will be very thankful for food/snacks you voluntarily bring.

I am the Lady of the Rosary. - Our Lady of Fatima
Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us who have recourse to thee!