



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 23 Issue 45

Bulletin Edition

November 10, 2017

NEWS

Washing of the Feet and Agony in the Garden Retreat renews twenty-three



“Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.” (Jn:13:8b)

“Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” (Mk: 10:38)

On their own, these words from the Lord were already powerful, but their transformational impact heightened into a very personal dimension for our brothers and sisters who attended the Washing of the Feet and Agony in the Garden retreat last weekend. Humility, servanthood and interceding for others took on new meaning and with even more resolve for everyone.

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COUNSELS

Stay Awake and Vigilant

THEME: God exalts those who remain vigilant in serving Him.

WORD: Wis 6:12-16 ~ Ps 63:2,3-4,5-6,7-8
1 Thes 4:13-18 ~ Mt 25:1-13

ORDER: *“Stay awake for you know neither the day nor the hour.” - Mt 25:13*

REFLECTION:

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus gives us another parable, the Parable of the Ten Virgins. It is about the second coming of Jesus, and it teaches us a sobering truth: that Jesus is coming back and we need to be prepared and vigilant for we do not know the day nor the hour. And in the first reading it tells us that while we are waiting for His second coming, Jesus is also waiting on us. He knows our heart. He anticipates our desire to reconcile with Him. As the True Shepherd, Jesus is always ahead of us; and as is promised to us in Wisdom 6:14, *“one who watches ... at dawn will not be disappointed.”*

In the Gospel, Jesus puts Himself in the parable as the Bridegroom. The ten virgins are symbolic of you and me, and virtually everyone who has either heard of or knows Jesus. We can even say that all ten believed in the second coming, or else, why would they all have set out and waited to meet Him if they did not know Him or believe that He was coming back? To some degree, all ten were prepared, for they all brought lamps. The difference is that some were better prepared than the others.

In the parable, the bridegroom was delayed and the ten virgins all fell asleep. But in the middle of the night,

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Promise of the Week

Whoever watches... at dawn shall not be disappointed.
- cf Wis 6:14

Reflections from Three Members of the Singles Ministry

In the following article, three members of the Singles Ministry were asked to look ahead to the readings for the week of November 13 to 18, and write reflections to share with the Community. The three that they submitted prove once again, how much we really can learn from each other.

Based on the readings for Monday, November 13:

In the Psalm, God reassures us that He knows us better than we know ourselves. In the first one it says, "you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar." Realizing that we each have this kind of relationship with the Lord is critical to the foundation of our lives.

The readings illustrate God's wisdom and our need for guidance. However, the readings also serve to remind us that His familiarity with us provides us comfort, especially during difficult trials. He knows every detail about us. He knows us intimately even if we do not know Him as intimately.

Since God loves us and knows us so well, we can strengthen our relationship with Him by getting to know Him too. Like it says in the Gospel, we accomplish this through acts of faith, repentance and forgiveness.

Maintaining this relationship or familiarity requires attention and work both in and out of the BLD Community. In times of crisis, it's often easier to scramble and assume that we can't find Him in the midst of chaos. But we must do our best to remember that when we try to find God, He has already found us.

Based on the readings for Wednesday, November 15:

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus took pity on ten lepers and cured them, but only one returned to express his gratitude for the miracle. Jesus asked, "**Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?**" (Lk 17:17-19).

Often times, we may get into the habit of constantly praying and asking God to fulfill our everyday needs. As promised, God answers our prayers His way, according to His divine plan; and for that, He deserves to be thanked – no matter what the outcome may be. Therefore, it is appropriate for us always to give thanks to God, Who provides us with everything, both big and small. Meanwhile, God holds us accountable for our words and actions, for as it says in the book of Wisdom, →→

→ "...because authority was given you by the Lord and sovereignty by the Most High, who shall probe your works and scrutinize your counsels" (Wis 6:3). As we grow in faith, deepen our understanding of Catholicism, and hold leadership roles in community, we are called to be witnesses and live accordingly to His teachings.

Based on the readings for Saturday, November 18:

One of the readings that struck me the most was the Responsorial Psalm (cf Ps 105:1-2). It talks about praising the Lord for what He has done and for all the good that He has done for us. The one particular verse that struck me was **Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds. Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!** For me, this brings me back to when I attended the Life in the Spirit Seminar retreat this past October.

During the baptism of LSS#48, I still had the same gifts, which was tongues and vision, that I received when I took Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar five years ago. When I pray in tongues on every occasion of worship, as I did during that LSS baptism, I believe that I speak in a different language that Satan can't understand; and that things not of God will likewise, never understand. When I pray in tongues, I always feel that I am speaking directly to God.

Besides the gift of tongues, the gift of vision is also another powerful gift that allows me to see God in my mind. When I had visions during the LSS baptism, I saw the clear skies of heaven, with angels running across the fields. I also saw my deceased grandmother who passed away two years ago. Seeing her, with whom I had been very close, was one of the greatest blessings He granted me during my LSS baptism. I feel that it was a sign that God wanted me to know that my grandma is already home with Him in heaven.

After the baptism concluded, everyone sang praises to the Almighty Father, as Psalm 105 encourages us to do, thankful for the blessings that He provided through the LSS weekend. The psalm's message is clear: God is always with us. Throughout the trials that we all face, He will never abandon us or leave us. He will be at our side no matter what. So, as the Psalm response says, let us...



NEWS

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Retreat renews twenty-three...

Those renewed came from:

St. Antoninus - Eileen Ohara, Unity Omokha, Marjorie Ottey, Barbara Reyes and Gloria Ryan; the ME's - Marissa Rangel, Bo and Bing Frio, York and Denise Miguel, Runnie Santiago and Vince McKenzie; SPE - Patrick Alexis, Charmaine Belleza, Nagela Camille, Nina Dacula, Blessie Ramos, Liz Ramos, Daki Romano and Belinda Pacaira; and the Singles Ministry - January Bacus, John Cam and Carl Caparros.

God bless Fr. Paul Lehmann, our retreat master for his labor of love. Also, special thanks to the following ministries whose members unselfishly gave their time and tireless efforts: Praise, Intercessory, Service, Witness and Development, and Teaching. We are also very grateful to the sharers and coaches who greatly enriched the retreat through their powerful and inspiring sharings.

Above all, we give thanks to our almighty Triune God. To God be the glory!

Youth Ministry's YE classes "battle"



Last October 28, the Youth Ministry held this year's Battle of the Classes. In this annual event, once again the most recent YE classes engaged each other in friendly, yet competitive sporting events. Christine Carvajal from YE 24 had this to report:

Battle of the Classes was an amazing experience that allowed all of us to bond with one another. It really gave us the chance to share our talents and efforts as we strived toward one goal. The day was full of activities that allowed everyone to just have fun and enjoy each others' company. ...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

and at the most inconvenient time, they were awakened by the excitement that the bridegroom had arrived. It was at this moment that the foolish ones realized that their lamps were running on empty, so they left to buy more oil. Unfortunately for them, it was when they left that the bridegroom came and opened the door to the wedding feast. Needless to say, those foolish ones totally missed their opportunity because they were not prepared. As for you and me, we need to prepare NOW while there is still time. WE CAN NO LONGER PROCRASTINATE.

In one of Pope Francis' homilies at the beginning of the year, he said that all Christians are called to renew their faithfulness to God every day and not procrastinate when it comes to their own personal conversion. The Holy Father said that a hardened heart that postpones "receiving the love of God" for another day, may find that it is too late to enjoy the heavenly reward awaiting those whose hearts are strong in faith. Let us not be found to be like the foolish virgins who lacked reserves of spiritual oil. We need to keep strong in our faith EVERY SINGLE DAY.

The parable also teaches us that we cannot rely on others for our own salvation. The wise ones refused to share their oil with the foolish ones, fearing that there might not be enough for all of them. They were rightfully concerned about their own salvation. You cannot rely on others... your spouse, your family, or anyone for your own salvation. Salvation is between you and God, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The parable also reminds us that not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus turned the foolish ones away when they called on Him to open the door for them. It is really not enough to say we know Jesus. It is not enough to say, "I believe." We need to exemplify a life of true faith and service that is worthy of His promise. We need to show it in our words, conduct and service, and via the life we lead.

Furthermore, we have to stay awake and vigilant. Jesus promises salvation to us when we cling to and live in Him... not just sometimes, but every single day.

As we near the end of the year, the readings could not have come at a better time. How often have we heard someone say, "time flies" or "where does the time go?" For some of us, the reality is that we get too caught up in the daily grind of life - raising a family, work, school, house chores, sports, and even social media, that we often forget ...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

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to stock up on our spiritual oil. For some of us, we succumb to worldly pressures much too readily and neglect to nurture our spirituality.

We can say that the oil in the parable is symbolic of HIS WORD. In the same way that a lamp needs oil to keep the flame burning, we need the Word of God to keep our spiritual life going. In the same way that a lamp needs oil to make it burn brighter to reveal the road ahead, we need to immerse ourselves in the Word so that we can see more clearly and focus on our walk along the straight and narrow path that leads to the gates of heaven.

In essence, the ten virgins were called to serve the Bridegroom, just as we are called to serve Him, to walk with and to shine for Him. The reward of joining the wedding feast is contingent on how well we are prepared and committed to the task. As true followers of Christ, our servanthood calls for a total and complete submission to Him and His Word, in the same way that Christ was in total submission to the Father.

Direction: Avail yourselves of the sacrament of reconciliation; remain in a state of grace.

NEWS

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YE classes "battle"...

It was amazing to see my class work together, and it was great that we all helped out and learned from one another. Ultimately, the joy and satisfaction of reaching our goal was worth all the effort. I specifically remember when our class was down to the final pieces needed to complete the jigsaw puzzle competition of BOTC, and how everyone was so intensely focused on it. Completing it made us so happy! That's what the entire day felt like to me: everyone contributing individual parts and pieces to make one whole image.

By the end of the afternoon, no matter what place each team finished at, we all had won, for the true prize that we all got from the BOTC was that there is beauty in effort and teamwork, and that we all benefit from bonding with one another... especially with Christ in our midst.



LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,268	\$ 60,386
Love Offerings	\$ 963	\$ 53,722
Mission Collections	\$ 252	\$ 5,407
Raffle	\$ 16,080	\$ 28,234

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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)

Medical Mission to the Philippines, 2018

Tarlac City, Tarlac / February 5-8



Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Nov 17	Formation
	Nov 24	Management
	Dec 1	Mission
	Dec 8	Pastoral