



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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Bulletin Edition

November 24, 2017

NEWS

Seventeen couples renew their relationships in ME 49



ME 49 was held last weekend, November 17-19 at the Hotel Executive Suites in Carteret, NJ. It was a triumph for the Lord with 17 couples renewing their relationships, refreshed by His love. Monsignor Paul Schetelick served as the Encounter's Spiritual Director, with two couples, Richard and Lee dela Fuente, and Manny and Judy San Luis as the sharers.

The weekend was made possible with the help of many helping hands. There were those who prayed; there were those who sang; there were those who sponsored and served. Thank you to you all. And most of all, **Thank You Lord!**

The Class Shepherds of ME 49 are Danny and Cora Labung; and its members are: Noel & Aljane Anatalio, Victor & Maureen Badaracco, Rick & Patty Bawar, Juan & Jackie Berrios, Ken & Maricel Bowe, Pete & Chit Caparros, Edgar & Margaret Castro, Greg & Vanessa de Vany, Rene & Zeny del Rosario, Lionel & Marline Denis, Jim & Peggy Feely, Melvin & Walkiria Guerra, Ken Julien & Saneeta Somai, Jae & Yanny Lopez, Mickey & Melissa McKittrick, Nonong & Agnes Salazar, Michael Tarantino & Rebecca Madrigal.

COUNSELS

Christ the King and Good Shepherd

THEME: God exalts those who care for and minister to the poor and the needy.

WORD: Ez 34:11-12,15-17 ~ Ps 23:1-2,2-3,5-6
1 Cor 15:20-26,28 ~ Mt 25:31-46

ORDER: *Look after and tend my sheep.* – cf Ez34:11
Whatever you do for one of the least brothers of mine, you do for me. – cf Mt 25:40

REFLECTION:

Our Church presents us with a beautiful vision of the coming of Jesus Christ, seated in glory on His throne with all the angels around Him and all the nations of the earth gathered before Him. And we hear our Lord's message: *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!"* (Mt 25:34) This is the great promise of our faith and our hope to hear these words personally from Jesus Christ.

The first reading is a powerful prophecy by Ezekiel over 500 years before Christ came on earth. Christ fulfilled this prophecy to the letter. He is the Good Shepherd Who said: *"I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds...The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal."* (Ez 34:16) Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who tends His flock. He feeds them before He eats. He notices each one and immediately binds up any of their wounds.

...Continued on page 2

Promise of the Week

"The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal." (Ez 34:16a)

The following is a reflection on the weekend from a member of the sponsoring class, ME 48. Perhaps for many of us, it will stir many similar fond memories of the encounters we have been blessed to have been a part of.

The ME Works!

Simply put, the ME works, because we have lived it.

As I was gazing into my husband's eyes during the song presentations of our class in BLD Newark's recent Marriage Encounter Weekend, I was transported back to being a candidate again, sitting in front, and closely watching how the ME 47 shepherds and the couples of their class were tenderly touching and looking at each other. Six months ago, I had whispered to myself, "I want that." Thanks to last weekend's ME, I was that to the candidates of ME 49 who were sitting before us.

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life, to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit His temple." (Ps 27:4) This verse took on a matrimonial meaning for me. We are called to live in our homes with our earthly spouses all the days of our lives; to gaze at his or her beauty and to be close to and intimate with them. In a sense, our love here is a prelude for a greater love; it points to the qualities of that relationship. When we have a passion for God, then we will feel the most love for our spouses. Saturated in these loves, from our Divine Father and our earthly spouse, we open up to loving others. Then we begin to love our friends, enemies and strangers too, seeing in them Christ, Who will complete the good work He has started in each of us (cf Phil 1:6).

During ME 49, how great it was to be touched once more by Msgr. Paul Schetelick's stories of loving couples and their children; to hear the stories of God's love victorious in the lives of the sharers. Like saints, like Christ, there is no greater witness than when people give of their lives.

As ME 48 completes our six months, although we are like babies still in an early developmental stage: we can stand with the support of the Community and energetically serve. At the ME, we responded, smiling and happy, with our spouses and with the others in BLD. Praise God!

Pictured below are the members of the sponsoring class of ME 48:



COUNSELS

(from page 1)

He heals the sick by giving them His love and attention. As the psalmist proclaims, He is the Shepherd Who leads us to rich pastures and restful waters.

Matthew's Gospel says Jesus' Kingly glory will be visible to men at His second coming. Jesus foretold what was going to happen at the end of time.



"He will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him. And He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." (Mt 25:31~33)

On judgment day, God will separate His obedient followers from the pretenders and unbelievers. Each of us will stand before Christ's tribunal and see our life's work laid bare. We shall see our thoughts, words and actions; our prejudices, pride, selfishness, our sins, and most of all, how we have treated others. In the presence of the Omniscient Judge, we will see ourselves as we truly are.

Today, at the end of the current liturgical year and before the beginning of the new Church year, we conclude with these directions:

Directions:

1. Do corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
2. Actively participate in the life and mission of the Church, in accord with our God-given gifts.

In our pluralistic society of believers and unbelievers, it is impossible for the world to form a government with God as its head. There is so much divisiveness, distorted philosophies, political systems, hate, violence, sickness and deprivation in this world. Many people in our society look for false gods to heal their wounded lives. Many look for power, status, success, wealth and fleeting recognition and approval. Our society cannot live together in love and peace until there is spiritual change.

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THE WRITING ON THE WALL

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine gave me a nice coffee table book, and in it were New Yorker magazine cartoons from the various decades of the 20th century. I found their subtle humor amusing, although I couldn't comprehend some of them, mostly those from the early 1900's. And then, when I was about midway through the book, I saw the cartoon below and found myself excitedly laughing, because...

I got it! Thanks to BLD's Word Sharing Circles, I vividly remembered talking about the reading from Daniel with the same words: MENE, TEKEL and PERES. (Dn 5:25)



In the story from that Book of Daniel, during a royal party, where the guests were using treasures plundered from the temple in Jerusalem, a hand suddenly appeared, writing those words on a palace wall. Later that night, the host of the party, King Belshazzar, was slain. Since the New Yorker cartoon was showing traders looking at a stock market big board and ticker, its artist must have been depicting the scene just before a Wall Street crash. It made me recall when I used to work for a Wall Street bank and there was panic aplenty whenever there was a huge correction.

Had it not been for BLD and our Word Sharing Circles, I probably would not have ever noticed this reading when read at Mass. But beyond the intellectual stimulation of understanding the New Yorker cartoonist's message, lies the more real lesson of "The Writing on the Wall" (which is where, I believe the English expression actually comes from). As we declare Him King, may we all realize that Christ's second coming is inevitable.

The lesson for everyone is to be ready now. Do good now; believe in Him, now. For ignoring M-T-P, thinking that one can just scramble later, will, sadly, have its consequences.

COUNSELS

(from page 2)

But behind everything must be our stand to acknowledge the Kingship of Christ. As St. Paul says, He must reign in us. He must be at the core of our private and public life, our individual and social life, our economic and political life. And that means, not merely as a sentiment or feeling, but in principle and as a way of life. We need to ask for the grace to offer our hearts to Jesus Christ, enthroning Him at the center of everything in our lives, to strive for holiness and to acquire the resolve to do God's will.

The Feast of Christ the King extols us to bring to the world the beauty of God's Kingdom. We do this through the way we live, by sharing with the men and women of our time, our faith and the teachings of the Gospel and the teachings of our Church. Let us never forget that Jesus Christ is the King Who came among us as a Servant. He came to serve, not to be served. This is what Jesus is saying in today's Gospel. He is asking us to make simple acts of charity and deeds of mercy: to do corporal works of mercy in all circumstances. They are simple acts freely given and freely received. We have no excuse to neglect those in deep need. Jesus really lays it on the line when He says, *"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."* (Mt 25:40) We're to show that we are caring persons by the witness of our actions. As a Community, we must witness unity of heart, mind and spirit in sharing a common vision and mission, based on Christian love and faith, service and worship, within itself and with the bigger Church. Serve the poor and the underprivileged, by supporting campaigns for human development, and by participating in such critical areas as social and poverty alleviation endeavors, housing and medical missions. Evangelize individuals and families and build communities of faith through renewal programs, such as Encounters, LSS and Discipleship Formation programs; and to provide formation on personal prayer, pro-life values and Catholic social teachings and stewardship.

In keeping with our Worship theme tonight which says that **God exalts those who care for and minister to the poor and the needy**, let us ask for the grace to do this joyfully. Because as we live our daily lives and try to understand and help others by going out of our way to make life better for them, we do it in imitation of Jesus. So let us pray today for the grace to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ our King. Nothing in our lives, my brothers and sisters, should be more important than loving and following Jesus!

Update # 3 (of 9): BLD Newark Spiritual Program for the Unborn



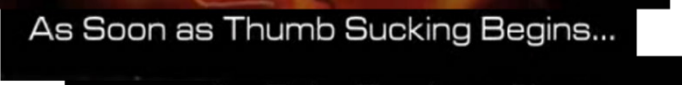
By The 11th Week:
She Can Smile and Frown...



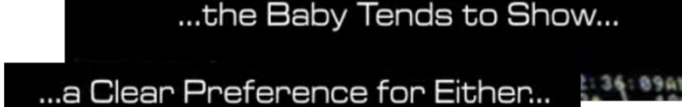
By The 11th Week:
...Wiggle Her Fingers and Toes...



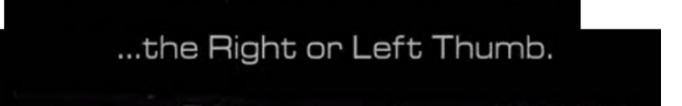
By The 11th Week:
...And Even Suck Her Thumb.



As Soon as Thumb Sucking Begins...



...the Baby Tends to Show...



...a Clear Preference for Either...



...the Right or Left Thumb.

PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Jesus, Mary, Joseph
I love you very much
I beg you to spare
the life of the unborn baby
that I have spiritually adopted
who is in danger of abortion.

A Baby in the Womb
Moves 50 Times
or More Each Hour.

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,231	\$ 62,518
Love Offerings	\$ 1,277	\$ 56,332
Mission Collections	\$ 203	\$ 5,610
Raffle	\$ 40	\$ 38,660

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

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLD Newark Schedule for the Five Fridays in December:

December 1 – First Friday Eucharistic Celebration

December 8 – Corporate Worship led by the Singles

December 15 – Corporate Worship led by the Solo Parents

December 22 – Community Worship

December 29 – Family Worship

Catholic Everything Expo



Building up & Restoration of the Church

Come and rejoice in the richness of our faith! Make a difference in the world we in live by shining your faith to all!

December 2-3, 2017 (Sat & Sun) Meadowlands Exposition Center
8 am- 6 pm 355 Plaza Drive Secaucus, NJ 07094

Holy Mass . Dynamic Preaching . Music . Exhibits . Christmas Gift Bazaar

Coupon code: BLD20 for 20% discount Regular admission: \$35 for one day; \$50 for Sat & Sun

For ages 13-17: \$15 for both days

For ages 12 and under: Free

Seniors: \$40 for both days

Among the anointed speakers:

Msgr Paul Schetelick



Medical Mission to the Philippines, 2018

Tarlac City, Tarlac / February 5-8

Marshaling	Schedule	Date	Apostolate
		Dec 1	Mission
		Dec 8	Pastoral
		Dec 15	Evangelization
		Dec 22	Formation

A pdf of this Covenant News and more information about BLD are available online at BLDNEWARK.com