



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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NEWS

BLD Newark holds Disciples' Assembly

Disciples discuss upcoming Emergence process; as the BLD Nomination Day is fast approaching, Districts are currently preparing for this worldwide Community undertaking with informational sessions and preparatory meetings.



Last Saturday afternoon, March 10, 2018, BLD Newark held a Disciples' Assembly at the Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium, to tackle some of the outstanding issues and questions of Community members. Due to the weather it was a bit cold inside, but it soon warmed up as people arrived. The meeting was well attended, and those who were there were engaged and quite active.

The opening worship was led by the members of the District Committee of Emergence Overseers (DCEO) composed of Deacon Serge Bernatchez – Chairperson, and members Benjie Ombrete, Claire Mejorada, Paul Martinez, and York Miguel. The DCEO will implement the policies and ensure the orderly and prayerful conduct of the General Emergence. ...Continued on page 3

COUNSELS

The Hour Has Come

THEME: As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus and serve Him in His people.

WORD: Jer 31:31-34 ~ Ps 51:3-4,12-13,14-15
Heb 5:7-9 ~ Jn 12:20-33

ORDER: *“Whoever serves me must follow me...”*
– Jn 12:26a

REFLECTION:

The events told in the Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Lent begin with what seemed like just a simple request from some Greeks about wanting to see Jesus. But, as things turned out, that request signaled a major change in direction in the ministry of our Lord. Jesus said, *“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”* (Jn 12:23) Up to this point most of His followers were local Jews; and recall too that during the wedding at Cana Jesus had said to His mother, *“My hour has not yet come.”* (Jn 2:4b) His new statement now indicated that the purpose of His coming had gone beyond the confines of Israel, and was now open to gentiles as well, to bring everyone into one flock under One Shepherd.

Then He said that *“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”* (Jn 12:24) Jesus knew what was coming – He was the grain that was to die so that all of the human race would have the opportunity to enter the true Promised Land. Aware that the end of His time on earth was drawing near, He prepared His disciples by reminding them of what it would take to be His disciple. It is what we find in this week’s order, taken from John 12:26 - *“Whoever serves me must follow me.”* ...Continued on page 3

Promise of the Week

“...whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.” (Jn 12:25b)

More BLD News:

Due to a Nor'easter earlier this month, Friday, March 2nd, all of the events scheduled for that day had to be canceled. During the next two days, however (March 3 and 4), the YLSS weekend was still held (see the news article on YLSS #23 below). So after Worship last Friday was super busy! Among the postponed activities from March 2nd that were conducted on March 9th instead were the following:

- * Commissioning Rite for Covenanted Disciples
- * Blessing of New District Instructors /Teachers
- * Blessing of the DCEO members
- * Anointing/blessing of the LSS49 Weekend Coordinators, Shepherds' Coordinators and the LSS Teams (Action, Piety, Study)
- * LSS49 Salubungan

Please pray for the newly Covenanted Disciples, the new Teachers, the DCEO, the LSS 49 team, and the Shepherds and their Lambs.

The Youth Ministry praises and thanks the Lord for YLSS #23!

The Lord and the Holy Spirit emerge victorious once again, despite a Nor'easter on the eve of the YLSS weekend, Friday, March 2nd.

The Youth Ministry would like to extend the entire Ministry's deepest and sincerest gratitude for the Community's overwhelming support and prayers during the YLSS weekend, which was still held as originally scheduled, on March 3-4, 2018. The weekend was a huge success... another victory for the Lord! There were a total of 17 candidates!

First and foremost, special thanks to Msgr. Paul Schetelick and Deacon Serge Bernatchez for serving to make this another remarkable YLSS! And a BIG THANK YOU to Fr. Ed Jocson of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Linden for allowing BLD to use their Church basement for the weekend; and to DMP Administrator, Fr. Alex Cruz, who was instrumental in quickly finding this venue. After the Divine Mercy Parish auditorium in Rahway was flooded by the Nor'easter on March 2nd, the Lord worked His wonders by blessing the Youth Ministry with this alternative location. He made it possible for everything to continue as planned.

Thank you Lord!

There were also a lot of auxies from the Singles Ministry, Solo Parents Ministry, our DCS and so many more who tirelessly worked alongside the members and Tricord of the Youth Ministry. In addition, thanks to everyone who spiritually supported the Seminar through their participation in vigil and their prayers.

ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH – SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

In the four Canonical Gospels, nothing much is said about Jesus' earthly father, St. Joseph. Actually, he appears in only two of them, and no spoken words are actually attributed to him. But in the infancy narratives, his decisive actions – of marrying Mary, going to Bethlehem, fleeing to Egypt – show how important his role was.

In the many movies about Jesus, St. Joseph is seldom portrayed. But in 1999, a four-hour TV mini-series, simply entitled "Jesus," includes segments that portray what their father-son relationship might have been like. It starts out with Joseph and Jesus traveling throughout the countryside looking for work. This felt a little odd for me; perhaps it's because I've been so accustomed to seeing Jesus as the one in charge. But in this instance, He was the apprentice, and St. Joseph was the one teaching Him the intricate nuances of carpentry. As they journeyed together, their common purpose of earning a living added even more to the bond that they already had.

Soon after they return home however, St. Joseph succumbs to a heart attack and dies. The show then portrays Jesus in His most vulnerable human state – that of a grieving son asking "why?" By this time, Jesus already knows the truth about His Heavenly Father, so, through His tears, He begs that Joseph be brought back to life. But... this does not happen. The TV drama then continues on with an almost staccato-like and lengthy presentation of Jesus' ministry and eventual Passion, Death and Resurrection.

After recently seeing this mini-series, the portrayal of the relationship Jesus had with St. Joseph stuck with me. It helped me to more realistically comprehend the genuine love between them - of a father to a son, and of a son for his father. Although I know that none of this is actually stated and included in the Bible, this added immense insight for me, into Who Jesus was, and what He really might have been like when He was physically present on this earth 2000 years ago. As a father myself, I empathized with the feelings that St. Joseph showed towards Jesus; as a son, when Jesus was crying over St. Joseph's body, I found myself longing for my own father too... for him to somehow be alive and be my father again.

This coming Monday, March 19, the Church honors St. Joseph as "the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin." I'm sure that I will be thinking of him, not just because of that lofty title, but because he was a loving father and role model whose intercession we should pray for to guide us every day.

BLD Newark holds Assembly... (from page 1)

The BLD Emergence is the process of discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit, Who chooses our leaders. As stated in the BLD Statutes, the emergence is a two-step normative process of nomination and selection of Community and District leaders who are called to a higher responsibility. The first step occurs at the District level where Covenanted members prayerfully discern and nominate their leaders. The second step occurs at the BLD Global level where the Community Spiritual Director (CSD) prayerfully discerns and selects the CSL members (for BLD Global), who then prayerfully discern and select the Apostolate Stewards (the DCS) for the various BLD Districts. During that second step, the CSD and CSL carefully consider the Covenanted Disciples nominated by the Districts in a process of co-discernment. It is not an election exercise or a popularity contest, nor is it meant for members to aspire to any particular position. The conduct of the emergence is retained in the BLD statutes, as approved by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in 2016, a copy of which was sent to the Archbishop of Newark.

Questions regarding the 2-step normative process, nominee and nominator qualifications, and timing, were raised during the Assembly. Deacon Serge and the DCS Stewards provided clarification on the issues, and Manny Mangalonzo added his thoughts from the perspective of his current role as the Community's Cluster Shepherd. Two members of the DCS, Sam Olaso and Jovy Lucero led the discussions, explaining how they fulfilled their duties as Apostolate Stewards. Also on the agenda was a 2017 financial report, which was presented by Management Steward, Gerry Canlas. During this segment, a question on the House of Worship fund was also raised; currently, the fund remains set aside and has not been used for ongoing BLD expenses.

Finally, all 5 couples serving as BLD-Newark's District Council of Stewards expressed their sincere gratitude to the Community for the opportunity to serve, and expressed their overwhelming appreciation for the humble, self-sacrificing, persevering and loving service of all ministry coordinators and members under each Apostolate.

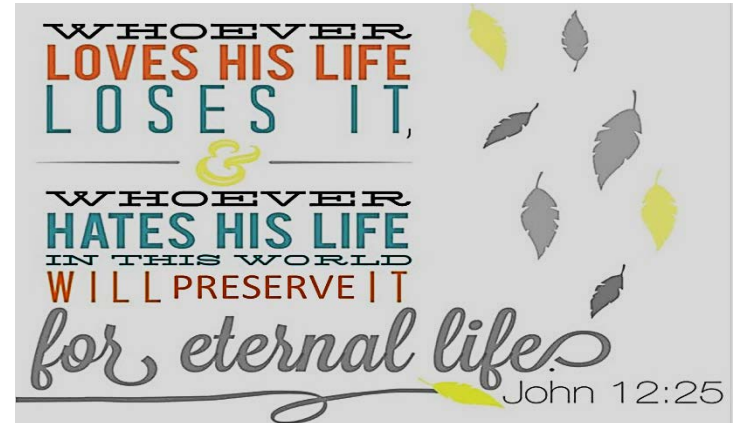
A link is available on the BLD Newark home page which launches the 2018 Emergence site. Buttons on the site provide access to the lists of the nominees, as well as the nominators for BLD Newark.



COUNSELS (from page 1)

This call to discipleship has traveled from generation to generation, on to our very own calling here in BLD. Many have been called, but few have answered. Even in our own circumstances, we may have committed to the covenant but at times we have not totally lived up to it. The conditions of discipleship – to deny ourselves, pick up our crosses daily, and follow Jesus - are challenges that can be difficult to follow in our everyday lives. Denying ourselves is truly a big obstacle, because it means giving up our pride and our ego.

Our Spiritual Director, Monsignor Paul, once defined EGO as “edging God out.” For most people, the objective and entire orientation of life is primarily focused on thinking of *I, me and myself* first; so that without divine assistance no one can surrender to what discipleship really entails. But Jesus tells us clearly:



This may trouble us, because quite often, we don't want to give up our life. Yet for this Sunday of Lent, the message is about dying to our present selves and allowing the New Covenant to possess us entirely.

...Continued on page 4

➔ The following is an exhortation on the Emergence from our BLD Global Spiritual Director::

“In this light, may I ask all BLD members to pray for the peaceful and successful conduct of the General Emergence, that the Holy Spirit may reign in the hearts of all nominators and those tasked to choose the leaders, and to guide them in choosing the right servants according to God’s will.

Further, may I exhort all nominators and nominees to prepare spiritually for the 2018 General Emergence, the same way that you prepare for every major community activity that you conduct. On Nomination Day, participants are to attend the Community Mass and receive communion before discerning whom to nominate.”

- Archbishop Angel Lagdameo

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

The Prophet Jeremiah is the source for the First Reading. In it, he tells us of God's desire for us and God's will that we be transformed. Jeremiah is very clear that this transformation will be the work of God. It is not something that we can accomplish by our own strength and will. **"I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people."** (Jer 31:33b) This New Covenant will come about with the forgiveness of our sins. God Himself promises to forget our sins.

Do we really want to see Jesus? Do we just want to observe Him, or do we want to see Him as He is? **"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."** (jn 12:26a)

The only way to see Jesus as He is, is to serve Him, so that we can truly know Him. We want to see and know the heart of our Lord and that is only possible through wholehearted devotion to His service.

Directions:

1. Always say **"YES"** to God's call to serve.
2. Deny yourself, pick up your cross daily and follow Him.

Update # 6 (of 9): BLD Newark Spiritual Program for the Unborn



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



LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 2,369	\$ 11,790
Love Offerings	\$ 1,303	\$ 7,093
Mission Collections	\$ 540	\$ 9,042

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Special Announcement

Not receiving BLD emails?

For assistance with staying informed about our Community's many activities, please reach out to Gene Bautista or Ernest Sun at secretariat@bldnewark.com (or ernest.sun@bldnewark.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMERGENCY:

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR # 49

LSS Weekend: Friday, April 13 – Sunday, April 15, 2018

Contact persons: Earl and Flo Manguiat
bldnewarklsa@gmail.com

Save the Date: Community Retreat with
 Monsignor Paul Schetelick
Saturday, April 21, 2018; 1-6 pm;
 Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER # 50

Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20, 2018

Hotel Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ
 Contact: MLA@BLDNewark.com

Applications are also available on the BLD Newark homepage at bldnewark.com

From the Diocese of Metuchen:

Lenten Mission at The Cathedral of St. Francis
The Transforming Power of Authentic Love

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19 to 20, 2018
 7 pm starting time each evening; 32 Elm Ave, Metuchen, NJ 08840

Speaker: *Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT*
No registration is required.

NO BLD ON GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Mar 23	Pastoral
	Apr 6	Evangelization
	Apr 13	Formation
	Apr 20	Management