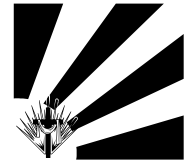




BLD PHOENIX

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 2

Ordinary Time/Lent Year C

February 2010

Month of February

WORD: *Disciples of Christ obey His call to spread the Good News of salvation.*

READINGS:

February 7 Is 6:1-8
Ps 138:1-5, 7-8
1 Cor 15:1-11
Lk 5:1-11

February 14 Jer 17:5-8
Ps 1:1-4, 6
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
Lk 6:17, 20-26

February 21 Dt 26:4-10
Ps 91:1-2, 10-15
Rom 10:8-13
Lk 4:1-13

February 28 Gn 15:5-12, 17-18
Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14
Phil 3:17 - 4:1
Lk 9:28-36

ASH WEDNESDAY 2010 - February 17

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Please check local parishes for service times.

PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the all-holy one, who gives us life and all things. As we go about our lives, the press of our duties and activities often leads us to forget your presence and your love. We fall into sin and fail to live out the responsibilities that you have entrusted to those who were baptized into your Son. In this holy season, help us to turn our minds and hearts back to you. Lead us into sincere repentance and renew our lives with your grace. Help us to remember that we are sinners, but even more, help us to remember your loving mercy. As we live through this Ash Wednesday, may the crosses of ashes that mark our foreheads be a reminder to us and to those we meet that we belong to your Son. May our worship and prayer and penitence this day be sustained throughout these 40 days of Lent. Bring us refreshed and renewed to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of January 2010

Receipts	\$2,841.97
Disbursements	\$ 743.05
Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,098.92

For more details, see Treasury Ministry Heads, Pedro & Cita Rivera. **Thank you for your generosity!**

Website: www.BLDPhoenix.com

Group E-mail: BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com

MONTHLY COUNSELS

Feb 7: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Submission)

Theme: We spread the good news of salvation when we depend on and trust in God's grace.

Promise: "...you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me." (Ps 138:3)

Reflection: Without God's help, our possibilities are limited. Without his grace, our attention is in our world's view of him and not his divine vision. If not inspired by him, we embrace his message but not his being. We relate to his voice, cling on to every word he utters and follow after him to all the places he goes. We copy the movement of his body language and other nuances. We quote his words. We even proclaim his name. But alas, in the core of it, Christ may not be in our midst. "Why?" we might ask. Do we not pray? We do more than pray. Do we not have rosary beads in our pockets, scapulars on our bodies, icons and altars in our homes? Do we not give alms to the poor? Do we not sing in the choir? Do we not spend time in charity drives? Do we not visit him in tabernacles? Yes we do. But have we **put out into the deep water?** Or do we remain in the shallow waters of doubt and half hearted commitment? Do we not hold out more than we really give? Do we not lack the courage to risk failure? Are we not afraid to make mistakes? Shallowness of purpose is not involvement. Deep commitment is. If Christ is not in us, we are merely going through the motions of love and service. We are simply making cult behavior of our convictions. We are only mistaking God for "a" personality" not "The" person. We are forgetting that the things we do are just the means and not the end in themselves. It is Christ we seek, he alone. If we **hold fast to the word** we receive, what have we to fear? After many mistakes, we then know how to do better. After a dismal failure, we then know when to ask God's help. Like the first disciples who **left everything and followed him**, we must depend on and trust in God's grace. Let us go and spread the Good News of salvation knowing now that when we call God he answers; he builds up strength within us.

Prayer: Teach me dear God not to be afraid. I submit myself to you. "**Here I am.**" Use me.

Order: "**Put out into the deep water.**" (Lk 5:4b)

Direction: Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Do not be afraid to fail. Keep inviting your friends to come back home to the church. Invite them to Sunday mass with you. Share a Bible verse and tell them what the verse means to you.

Feb 14: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holiness)

Theme: We spread the Good News of salvation when people see the character of Jesus in us.

Promise: "**Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord**" (Jer 17: 7-8)

Reflection: How is it possible to say, "**Blessed are you who are poor?**" God's word does sound paradoxical until we know what his message really is. Indeed, we are blessed because material poverty and want should not matter at all if we trust solely in God. We are blessed if we are reconciled to our adversity and if we trust that there are those in God's community whom he will send to help and share our burden, as long as we trust him and we keep on working hard to better our condition and not despair. ..."**Blessed are you who are now weeping?**" Is this cruel irony? But did not Peter weep as he realized that he had thrice denied Christ who previously foretold that he would do this? Peter's weeping is both repentance and blessing. Not just a promise, but the blessing is *Continued next page...*

February Teachings Schedule

Teaching Topics: Christian Speech, Christian Witnessing
For: Post-LSS and Encountered Adults
When: **February 28, 2010** at 1 to 4PM
Where: Victory Home Care Offices
1212 N Spencer St., Mesa 85203

Counsels continued... here and now for those who weep and suffer for Christ's cause and reason. Still you might ask, how can we say, "**Blessed are you when people hate you?**" Why not? For **the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord,** what does it matter? Did not Jesus himself get hated, reviled and crucified? O, that we may all be blessed to be treated the way we treat the Lord in our sins. May we all be blessed when others count us as fools for the Lord. May we all be blessed as we spread the Good News of salvation and show all people the character of Jesus is in us.

Prayer: Sweet Jesus, I have made you for a beggar when I withhold my love from you, when I make you weep for my sins. Forgive me. Help me to be holy that I may spread the Good News of salvation to others. Amen.

Order: "**Rejoice and leap for joy.**" (Lk 6: 23a)

Direction: Get involved in BLD activities. Come to Friday Praise and Worship. Attend the BLD teachings. Ask questions and share. Accept God's challenge. Read a page of the Scripture daily and pray.

Feb 21: First Sunday of Lent (Piety)

Theme: We spread the Good News of salvation when we confess with our mouths and witness with our lives that Jesus is Lord.

Promise: "**No one who believes in him will be put to shame.**"

(Romans 10:11)

Reflection: In the desert, Jesus was thrice tempted by the devil. In our homes and in our work places, we unceasingly tempt Jesus. "Just this once, let me have this lust." "Just this once, let me get even with this fool." "Just this once, let me cheat. Let me lie." If God were not so forgiving and so generous, we would be more brazen and cruel. We do not give him **the first fruits** of our labor. We seldom give thanks. We so easily forget the things he has done for us. We are quick to complain to him. In episodic moments of brightness, we fold our knees before him and say we are sorry and even at those times we think that we have returned to God on our own. He who first loved us gently initiates our first stumbling effort to get back to him until our conceit blindsides us and we are again as far away from him who loves us and who cares for us in every detail. "**One does not live on bread alone,**" but we continue to consume the filth of the mind and the temptations of the flesh. We continue to appease the ravenous appetite of our worldly senses. How much longer can he suffer our arrogance? "**You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve,**" but we worship power and prestige. We serve the tyrants of our fears and anxieties. We burn candles to our idols of apathy, excesses and wastes. How much further can he stand the wicked confession of our mouths? In his mercy, he does not thwart with just wrath the errors of our convictions. "**You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test,**" but we tempt him daily. We hold the Almighty in contempt every time we bend our rules and play games with him. What careless and reckless witnesses we are to you, O Jesus, our Lord. O my Lord, it is time to confess our unfaithfulness, our waywardness, our ongoing charade at self sufficiency. We do hunger for your guidance. We do thirst for truth. We do starve for piety. O Lord, take us back. With your **strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders,** bring us back to you.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, my Lord and my God, let what my mouth utter be true. Let the witness of my life be faithful. I believe in you. Put me not to shame. Amen.

Order: "**You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.**" (Lk 4: 23a)

Direction : Be grounded in prayer. Be faithful to regular confessions and

Appointment of New Secretariat Ministry Coordinators

As appointed by the District Council of Stewards of BLD Phoenix and as endorsed by its District Servant Leaders, the Executive Council of Servant Leaders is of one heart and one mind in confirming the appointment of **Art and Marissa Crisostomo** as **Secretariat Ministry Coordinators**. May the Lord who sees all our actions empower you with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit as you fulfill the task ahead of you. "**Tend the flock of God in your midst, (overseeing) not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**" (1 Peter 5:2-4)



Counsels continued... communion. Come to Friday Praise and Worship and invite a friend to come with you. Attend the BLD teachings to learn or that others could learn from you.

Feb 28: Second Sunday of Lent (Faithfulness)

Theme: We spread the Good News of salvation when we remain faithful to our covenant with the Lord.

Promise : "**I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living**" (Ps 27:13)

Reflection: In Mount Tabor, **Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw** Christ's glory. From inattention, from lapses of good sense, from our moral darkness, we must always become fully awake so we do not miss God's bounty and glory. Awake and eager, like Peter we could say, "**Master, it is good that we are here,**" but unlike Peter **who did not know what he was saying,** we could ask, "Are we to remain here, Lord? Up here in the mountain, there are just the few of us. Should not **the bounty of the Lord** be seen **in the land of the living?**" That is how a faithful disciple must behave. Prepared and eager. Not frightened. Not silent. But ready to **tell anyone what he had seen.** We know God's mission. We must spread the Good News of salvation. But first, listen to the Lord. Then let us be up and going. Rightfully, you might ask that when the Lord said to Abram, "**I am the Lord who brought you from Ur...to give you this land as a possession,**" did not Abram ask a question? Did he not ask, "**O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?**" Is it not presumptuous to be asking the Lord? Did not Abram doubt when he asked the Lord? We could be certain that it is not presumptuous to ask the Lord. Neither is it doubt. "**How am I to know?**" It is not cringing in fear or lack of faith when we question, for until God's light lifts our cloud of unknowing we need to ask God directions. We depend on him. We are lost without him. **Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."** Faithful, prepared and eager, still we must **listen to him.** Waiting on the Lord is trust not caution. Waiting on the Lord, we are affirmed. What courage do we have that is not God's? What certainty do we possess that is not borrowed from his bounty?

Prayer: We **stand firm in the Lord.** Not to our faithfulness, but to your name we give glory, O Lord. We bear the Good News of salvation. We thank you for this mission. Amen.

Order: "**This is my chosen Son; listen to him.**" (Lk 9: 35b)

Direction: We listen to the Lord if we read Scripture daily and , if we prepare for Mass by reading and meditating on the readings ahead of time. Call on the Lord. He transfigures us to his image when we persevere in hardship and continue to serve in his works of charity. Faithfulness is to be like Christ to all. -RSC

BIRTHDAYS

2-Crosby Cortez 13-Esther Ruales 23 - Jerome Fernando
7-Julie Ann Fernandez 17-Art David 24 - Venus Fuentes

12-Rosie Calvo 20-Johnny Devera
13-Maria Korte 21-Peter Parian
13-Jong Gabriel 22-Remy Devera

ANNIVERSARIES

8-Mike & Maria Cassano
17-Jong & Malie Gabriel