



VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2007

Month of February

WORD: *As disciples of Christ we obey His call by trusting Him.*

- Feb. 04** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8
Ps 138:1-5, 7-8
1Cor 15:1-11
Lk 5:1-11
- Feb. 11** Jer 17:5-8
Ps 1:1-4, 6
1Cor 15:12, 16-20
Lk 6:17, 20-26
- Feb. 18** 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Cor 15:45-49
Lk 6:27-38
- Feb. 28** Dt 26:4-10
Ps 91:1-2, 10-15
Rom 10:8-13
Lk 4:1-13

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Do not be afraid to be used by the Lord to do his mission for his grace will be sufficient to complete it.*
2. *The gifts you received as community and as individuals, give also as gifts to your brothers and sisters who need them the most.*
3. *Let the Lord Jesus be the focus of your ministry; pray and listen to Him.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *The willingness to follow me is what I am looking for in a disciple. Do not hesitate for I will not forsake what I have promised to those who put their trust in me.*
2. *What you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do unto Me.*
3. *Leave your past behind and offer your future to Me; when you surrender your self and believe, you will experience My love.*

DCS Monthly Reflections

1st Week 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mission)

Theme: We obey the Lord's call when we leave everything to follow Him.

Promise: *"The Lord will complete what He has done for me."* (Psalm 138:7)

Order: Be fishers of men.

Direction: Preach so they will believe.

Reflection: Scriptures are filled with evidence that God wants to have man be part of salvation plan. Being God, he can do anything he wishes with a snap of His fingers. Yet he has the patience and many times tolerating the frustration of coaching and urging man to do the salvation work with Him.

Men are sinful; caused by the disobedience from our fore-parents; with our own personal pride, we are loaded with sins and wickedness. God, however, looking at the little goodness we still possess, He purges our sins, and cure our wickedness, letting us to cooperate in His redemptive work.

All men have to do, is taking the first step of consenting to spread the good news; the resurrected Christ together with the Holy Spirit will complete what He has done for us - giving us the will to do His work of being the fisher of men.

Jesus has already shown to all of us, through his disciples, many of them are lowly, uneducated, ordinary working men; that God can use the most ordinary to produce the most extraordinary harvest in the salvation plan.

We are to only obey His call to following Him, God will complete the good work He began on us. St. Paul has already predicted that: *"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."* Php 1:6

2nd Week 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Service)

Theme: We obey the Lord's call when we joyfully serve Him.

Promise: *"Blessed is the one who trust in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord."* (Jer 17:7) *"... whatever he does, prospers."* (Ps 1:3)

Order: *"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. (Lk 6:20-22)*

Continued next page...

Week 2 Reflections continued...

Direction: Blessed the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked, nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent, but delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night.

Reflection: The Beatitudes is a good reminder for us to always choose the path of righteousness and put our trust in Him. Jesus died for us and resurrected back to life so that we may be saved from our sins and in his resurrection so too were we freed from our own death to sin. In order for us to walk the path of righteousness however, we must keep away from temptations and avoid putting ourselves in situations that can cause us to sin. In this world we live in, there are too many distractions that we sometimes cling too much in the luxuries & material comfort in life that we tend to forget God. In the midst of all these, God is waiting for us to call on Him through good times and bad. He is reminding us that as his followers, we have to nourish the seed that He has planted in us and turn away from evil and trust that a life of righteousness here on earth is the path to our reward with him in heaven.

3rd Week 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Self-giving)

Theme: We obey the Lord's call when we return hatred with love.

Promise: *"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."* (Lk 6:38)

Order: "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you...For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Lk. 6:36-38

Directions: Let us practice the love, forgiveness, encouragement, support of one another, generosity to our fellow men specially to our growing community as Jesus has shown us.

Reflections: Once again the readings remind us of God's faithfulness and ever forgiving love for us. As we build community we always meet challenges. Intentions are questioned, motives suspect and sincerity doubted. This due to our human weakness, the first "Adam" in us. Then Christ showed us our spiritual side, the last "Adam" in us. Let us, in our weakness remember the compassion that God always shows on us. Our Father always forgives us despite our daily faults and weaknesses.

Week 3 Reflections continued...

Let us at least show a little of the same in our work for the Lord in building community. Let us not hold back for the Lord -- support each other, forget the past, look forward to uplift all. Look not for excuses not doing our share but rather let us be imitators of great workers like Mother Theresa, small in stature and no material possession yet a giant in caring for the poor and the weak. Let us keep focused on the Lord in all what we do.

4th Week 1st Sunday of Lent (Piety)

Theme: We obey His call when we worship Jesus our God, and Him alone we serve

Promise: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Rom 10:13)

Order: Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. (Rom. 10:9)

Reflections: Before our renewal, to confess that Jesus is Lord was quite difficult to do. We feel it could mean "disruption of normal familial and other social relationships", including great economic sacrifice and waste of time. The readings of this first Sunday of Lent is asking us -- How have we spent "quality time" with the Lord lately? When we made the decision to join and attend teachings, religious retreats, many things happened in our lives. We spent more time praying, reading and reflecting on the scriptures. *"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days."* (Luke 4:1-2)

The Lord invited us to enter the "desert" - to quiet our busy world, to simply spend more time with Him and empower us to share the gospel to others. Because at the end of the day - that was all it was. Just more time spent with a Father who misses His children very much - a chance to just sit down, talk, listen and enjoy each other's company. That beautiful experience was like taking a walk with Jesus. His hand holding our hands. †

ORDER (BLD GLOBAL)

"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch...

Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

(Lk 5: 4 and 10)



BLD Phoenix Annual Golf Tournament
 Laveen, AZ - More than 40 golfers teed off shotgun at 12 noon on January 6, 2007 at the Bougainvillea Golf Club. This was the second time that BLD Phoenix hosted its Annual Golf Tournament. Two teams consisting of members from the Pinoy Golf Club and the Fil-Am Golf Association of the Arizona vied for the winning title. This has been a fruitful fund-raising project headed by BLD Phoenix' Service Ministry Coordinators. The proceeds for this benefit was to assist the community in general but mainly to financially support the community's coming activity, the Marriage Encounter #6 which is sponsored by the class of Marriage Encounter #5. Each golf hole was sponsored by different generous individuals. As avid golfers enjoyed this event, BLD Phoenix also had the opportunity to introduce the community and its activities to this sector of the society. With mainly Filipinos participating, a whole new level of camaraderie was established as well. With BLD Phoenix making itself known to society with this event, may this also pave the way for the community to make Christ known to many through its activities and most importantly through the witnessing of its members. †

BLD Phoenix 2007 Encounters and Seminars

- Feb 2-4** ME#5 Franciscan Renewal Center
- May 4-6** YE#3 Venue to be determined
- July 27-29** YLSS Mount Claret
- Aug 10-12** SPE#2 Mount Claret
- Sep 14-16** LSS#5 Mount Claret
- Oct 26-28** Aspirants Retreat
Venue to be determined

(*ME - Marriage Encounter; YE - Youth Encounter; YLSS - Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar; SPE - Solo Parents Encounter; LSS - Life In The Spirit Seminar*)

Birthdays

2 - Crosby Cortez (ME 3 Trenton)
 13 - Maria Korte (YE 1)
 17 - Art David (ME 6)

Anniversaries

-

14 - Valentine's Day

TEACHINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 23 - Commitment and Intercessory
 (for selected members)
 *after Praise & Worship

St. Valentine

-February 14-

Valentine was a holy priest in Rome, who, with St. Marius and his family, assisted the martyrs in the persecution under Claudius II. He was apprehended, and sent by the emperor to the prefect of Rome, who, on finding all his promises to make him renounce his faith in effectual, commended him to be beaten with clubs, and afterwards, to be beheaded, which was executed on February 14, about the year 270. The greatest part of his relics are now in the church of St. Praxedes. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.



Above from L-R: BLD Phoenix' very own Jonathan L., Butch O. Denny C. and Lee J.



Above: Fil-Am and PGC Golfers warming up at the driving range before tee off!

Monthly Schedule

1st Fridays: Holy Mass w/ Anointing-7:30 PM
2nd, 4th & 5th Fridays: Praise & Worship-7:30 PM
3rd Fridays: Youth Praise & Worship-7:30 PM
 (Venue for Friday activities: OLV Chapel)

Feb 25 Filipino Sunday Mass - 5:00 PM at OLV
 (Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

Church Calendar

Feb 21 - Ash Wednesday
 (Obligatory Day of Fasting and Abstinence)

Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry

Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update ministry heads for answered prayers. You may please make/update prayer requests through a link in the website or e-mail ministry heads Denny & Nina Custodio at dennyc1220@cox.net.

IDLC

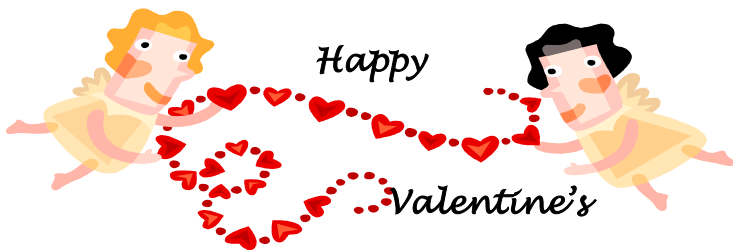
° To all DCS and Ministry Heads (and all those involved in handling minors) please take the Safety Environment Training for Ministries offered by local parishes. You may check the Diocese website for training schedule:

<http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>

° Monthly IDLC meeting will be on **February 10, 2007** at 12:00 noon at Victory Home Care 1103 S. Mesa Drive, Mesa AZ 85210 (Villaraza Building)

Secretariat Ministry

Personal data forms are already available at the Registration Area. This is for all encountered members/LSS graduates to update the community database. All forms are to be turned in to Secretariat.



THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of January 2007

Receipts \$ 8,307.00
Disbursements \$ 6,127.82
Surplus (Deficits) \$ 2,179.18

See Treasury Logbook for details-available at Registration Area or see Treasury Ministry Heads Pedro & Cita Rivera

Thank you for your generosity!

www.BLDPhoenix.com

Catholic Q & A:

WHY DO CATHOLICS ABSTAIN FROM MEAT ON ASH WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS?

There are a variety of reasons that exist why Catholics abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent. Technically and traditionally, Catholics should abstain from meat every Friday of the year as penance. Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten that, and just abstain during the Lent season. Since the earliest days of the Catholic Church, on every Friday throughout the year, Catholics are required to do some kind of penance. Most Catholics do not eat meat on Friday as a penance. As far as research says, no Pope introduced this practice, but it gradually became a practice.

Abstaining from something helps us refocus on what is important and it cuts out the things that might have seemed important. By abstaining, we have better ability to concentrate on God. During the Season of Lent, however, the Catholic Church asks Catholics to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics also should carry on the tradition of not eating meat on Fridays through Lent.

One belief of why meat was chosen is because most people feel that giving up meat (beef and chicken) is an inconvenience. The Church asks us to inconvenience ourselves sometimes to serve as a reminder that they should always have God as a top priority and pleasures as a lesser priority.

† † †

WHY DO CATHOLICS USE ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday is the official start of Lent. Lent is a forty day season, excluding Sundays, to prepare and meditate about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Roman Catholicism uses ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are a tradition in Catholicism. During the Ash Wednesday Mass or service, the priest places ashes on the middle of people's forehead if they want. This might sound a bit unusual, however, there is meaning behind it.

Ashes are an ancient symbol meaning repentance. Catholics repent for our sins. Having ashes reminds us that we need to apologize to God for sinning. Many Catholics attend Sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Lent. Another reason for the ashes is to remind us that one day we are going to die. Our physical bodies will turn to dust, however, our souls will return to God. The ashes are a physical reminder that what how we live our life matters. We will not be on Earth forever, but our souls never die. Having ashes on Ash Wednesday shows we have a deeper understanding of God and the season of Lent.