



VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2007

Month of January

WORD: *As children of God, we must strive to be in our Father's house.*

Dec 31 Sir 3:2-7,12-14
Ps 128:1-5
Col 3:12-21
Lk 2:41-52

Jan 7 Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
Ep 3:2-3a,5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Jan 14 Is 62:1-5
Ps 96:1-3, 7-10
1Cor 12:4-11
Jn 2:1-11

Jan 21 Neh 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10
Ps 19:8-10,15
1Cor 12:12-30
Lk 1:1-4,4:14-21

Jan 28 Jer 1:4-5,17-19
Ps 71:1-6,15,17
1Cor 12:31-13:1-3 or
1Cor 13:4-13
Lk 4:21-30

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Go and make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament to be in the Father's house.*
2. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, the peace into which you were also called to one Body.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Go to my Father's house where I can direct your ways. Surrender everything to Him and He will guide your path, for He will be with you till the end of time.*
2. *Blessed is he who fears the Lord for the fear of Him is the beginning of wisdom*

DCS Monthly Reflections

Week#1 (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph) **Value of Self-Giving**

Theme: We are in our Father's house when we honor and obey our father and mother.

Promise: *"Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother"* (Sir 3:7)

Order: "...Fear the Lord...Walk in His Way..." Ps128:1

Direction: Honor your parents, love your fellow men, do everything in the name of Jesus.

Reflection: The feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is an excellent reminder for us on our family, and our relationship to each other in the community. Each member of a family can find moral teachings from these scriptures-to be in our Father's house.

What exactly does it mean being in our Father's house: St. Paul's letter to the Colossians listed many of the virtues that we are to practice in the Father's household: a practice of honor, respect to God's anointed leader; and the leader's practice of God given responsibilities. We are to put on the virtues of the new life, a practical interpersonal relations that should flow from our position in Christ; first, into families to perfect (mature in) our *private* life (wives, husbands, children, fathers, slaves, masters; then perfecting our *prayer* lives; and our *public* lives. Within a family, the father, in the tradition of the Old Testament, is the Priest-King of the family. Like Abraham and Jacob, they ruled over their respective family; caring for their physical and spiritual needs to be God's people.

In contemporized society, even with two bread winners in the household, God's moral laws do not change. The father is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, willing to give his life for the wife, providing constant vigilance, ever-ready attention and guidance, eternal faithfulness and steadfast love. The parents, especially the father, is to provide for the children, physical and worldly necessities; and as the "high priest" of the household, he is to minister to wife and children, guide their spiritual development, and watch over their safety from the undesirable influences of the world. Wives are to be subordinate to the husband, in honor of the husband as the anointed head of the household. Children are to honor their parents. These fundamental virtues bring God's promises of prosperity and peace for the family.

Respecting God's anointed leaders in a community, obedient to their leading, in spite of their weakness and faults, is essential to bring on God's blessings for the community. God's moral laws can be related to the gravitational law of the universe, any imbalance will result in implosion or explosion. Any bias on observing the law will result in chaos.

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Reflections continued from 1st page...

Week#2 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

Value of Self-Responsibility

Theme: We are in our Father's house when we accept the revelation of Christ in our lives.

Promise: *"He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him."* (Ps 72:12)

Order: "Go and do him homage"

Direction: "Your light has come, the Glory of the Lord shines upon you."

Reflection: The three Magi were overjoyed as they saw the rising of the star of Bethlehem and stopped over the place where Jesus was. They paid him homage and offered gifts. As we accept the revelation of Christ into our lives so too must we pay homage to him by sharing the same gift he gave us of love, forgiveness and service. In the same way that the star of Bethlehem led the Magi to Jesus, so too must we share the light of our Lord that he has so generously shined on our community to those people who are still in the dark and searching for meaning in their lives. Let the Christmas season bring light to the world and reveal the love of God through the love and forgiveness that we share with one another.

Week #3 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Value of Group Solidarity

Theme: We are in our Father's house when we do what ever He tells us.

Promise: *"You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord"* (Is 62:3)

Order: "Do whatever he tells you." Jn. 2:5

Direction: The spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to each of us are special abilities to be used to attend to the needs of the community.

Reflection: This time of the year we talk of New Year's resolutions to change ourselves for the betterment of our health or lives or relationship with others. As we admire successful people we should also look well and admire and imitate those special few, who sacrifice their lives, spend their time and resources to help the downtrodden, the poor, the sick, the minorities and the disadvantaged. The Holy Spirit gives each of us certain special gifts and they are special abilities to be used to minister to the needs of the body of believers. Just as we have different abilities, we do different kinds of services to the church but it is the same Lord we are serving. We are to build up and unite the community. We pick and lift those who are down not lord over them. I am thankful to be with this community. We came together as a family, we lift each other up and we do what the church and the Lord wants us to do.

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2006: Year In Review

2006 was truly a blessed year for BLD Phoenix. There is no doubt that our Lord Jesus Christ through his Holy Spirit continues to inspire and guide our community to grow and evangelize through our witnessing and commitment to the teachings and catechism of our mother church.

2006 was a landmark year for BLD Phoenix . While we experienced the pains and challenges of a growing community early on, with the grace of our Lord, we succeeded in redirecting and focusing ourselves to the work at hand and the fruits of our efforts is evidenced by the many activities and landmark we as a community with the help of our Lord achieved in 2006.

It was the year where we saw dramatic results working with our mother district, BLD Newark. Through the guidance of our district shepherds, Chito and Aileen Ciocon, we have made tremendous leaps forward as we work towards becoming a full fledged district. Under the guidance of BLD Newark, we saw the establishment of the District Leaders Conference (DLC). A venue where the heads of the different ministries are able to meet, discuss plans and discern how to best implement the various programs we have established to support the spiritual growth of BLD members and how to evangelize and reach out to others. In July 2006, BLD Phoenix' first newsletter rolled off the press with it's discerned name, "Valley of the Son".

2006 also saw the anointing of committed couples within the community. While the BLD community desires and invites every member to become a covenanted disciple, the commitment process is a very important step forward in leading members into discipleship. To date we have 19 members who have committed themselves to the service of our Lord. In addition, we now have 5 home grown members who were covenanted with more members soon to follow this year.

In relation to the process of covenanting, the Teaching Ministry has been reinforced with the addition of two local teachers. This will ensure that teaching schedules will become more flexible with the availability of more district teachers for BLD Phoenix. We now also have 2 home grown couple sharers for the LSS in addition to sharers who have migrated from other BLD districts. This will result in less reliance on outside sources for sharers for ME and LSS weekends.

In terms of our Lord's provisions, the generosity of the members continue to allow us to provide funding for our activities.

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Week #4 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Community Culture

Theme: We are in our Father's house when we are one in the body of Christ

Promise: *"Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it."* (1Cor 12:27)

Order: Listen and Read from the Book of Law

Direction: Give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there be no *division in the body*.

Reflection: As I read and listened attentively to God's word, I was deeply touched for all His words are true, trustworthy and perfect. I remember when I joined this BLD Community, I thought I know everything about God, but I was wrong. I learned through His words and teachings, that I am one of the many parts of His body, and I can make a difference in that one body of many parts as I open myself to believe and testify to the truth of His teachings. I made my decision to follow Him and live my life with Him in accordance with His Holy will. My spouse and I have made a decision since we join BLD to give our lives to Him and felt His presence in our lives, personally as a couple, as a family and as a community. We shared the spiritual gifts He has given us to this community, to our family to testify to the truth of His words. As we surrendered ourselves to Him to do His works everything became so easy and we have peace, joy and love in our hearts. Though we are many we can all work as one for Him.

Week #5 (4th Sunday in Ordinary Time) **Norms on Piety**

Theme: We are in our Father's house when we fulfill Christ's words in Scriptures.

Promise: *"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."* (1Cor 13:7-8a)

Order: "stand up and tell them all that I command you"

Directions: "Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual Gifts."

Reflection: God predestined us to be prophets to speak as He commanded. We may be crushed for not being recognized by members of the community, and or being oppressed by the authority. However, we can be sure that God is our protector, when we proclaim His wondrous deeds.

We are encouraged to strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. God has a purpose for every one of us; each of us are endowed with specific gifts that is for the benefit of the community. We all process the three basic Spiritual gifts; faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

God is very generous in providing us spiritual gifts, it is really just up to us to acquire them. He is not only being generous, He actually encourages us to "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts." With love we can do the humanly impossible things, and do with gladness and cheerful hearts. †

MONTHLY TEACHINGS

Jan 5 (after Praise & Worship):

Topic: Luke

Jan 12 (after Praise & Worship)

Topic: John

Jan 14 (Sunday)

**Topic: Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Diakonia**

**The above topics are especially for
LSS 4 graduates and those who missed it**

Year In Review...continued from previous page

As meager as our resources are, the fund raising activities of the different ME classes and the generous love offerings of members during Praise and Worship and for key events continue to provide the necessary resources for us to carry out our Lord's work. While 2006 saw tremendous growth for the BLD community in Phoenix, the work for our Lord never ends. In Matthew 28:18-20 during the great commissioning of the disciples, Jesus exhorted his disciples saying: *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and know, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* He has truly provided us with what we need in order for us to sustain the work we do in his behalf. Just like the Virgin Mary, the perfect servant of our Lord, so too must we accept and continue to serve the Lord in humility and full obedience. While, the DCS and DLC continues to strive in serving the needs of the community, we invite everyone to take responsibility for evangelizing in the name of our Lord and be instruments in touching those whom the Lord has called. Let us continue to be witnesses for the Lord and be vessels used by our Lord in sharing his love, forgiveness and peace to everyone. We continue to pray for the Lord's guidance, strength and perseverance as we face new challenges for the coming year. As we welcome 2007, may God's blessing be upon each and everyone and may the new year bring renewed enthusiasm and fervor in service of our Lord. †

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated this year on January 7. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. (Ceremonial of Bishops).



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)

Jan 6 BLD Phoenix Annual Golf Tournament
Jan 28 Filipino Sunday Mass at OLV
(Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

Church Calendar

Jan 7 Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Birthdays

5 - Beny Gines (ME 3)
11 - Alex Alba (ME 1)
12 - Fe Querol (ME 4)
13 - Theresa Caravana (YE 2)
15 - Lucy De Leon (ME 6 Davao)
15 - Gerry Bautista (ME 2)
17 - Adrew Beronia (YE)
18 - Levy Oltiveros (SPE 1)
20 - Al Lopez (SPE 1)
26 - Bernadette Soden (LSS 3)
30 - Cita Rivera (ME 3)

Anniversaries

12 - Harmon & Chita Dilema (ME 5)
20 - Alex & Lina Alba (ME 1)
31 - Ben & Becky Felipe (ME 1)

BLD Phoenix sincerely thank everyone who contributed in making our annual Christmas Caroling fund-raising a success!

2006 Total Caroling Donations Received:
\$ 3, 125.00

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of December 2006

Receipts \$ 4,685.00
Disbursements \$ 1,960.00
Surplus (Deficits) \$ 2,725.00

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

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>

Married Life Apostolate (MLA)

M.E. #6 is fast approaching. It is scheduled on **Feb. 2-4, 2007** at the Franciscan Renewal Retreat Center. All couples sacramentally married are welcome to attend. Application Letters and Brochures for the MEW are available at the Registration Area every Friday. These are also available from MLA Coordinators Joseph & Milrose Kodumal, and also from Evan & Joie Pangilinan and from the website for download.

There will be Inventory and Business Meeting for M.E. 6 this coming **Jan. 7** at 2 PM at OLV. This is to be attended by the Sponsoring Class (M.E. 5). M. E. 4 and Ministry Heads are also invited to attend this meeting.

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.

Service Ministry

The BLD Phoenix **Annual Golf Tournament** will tee off on **Jan. 6** at the Bougainvillea Golf Club (5740 West Baseline Rd, Laveen, Arizona 85339). Registration has started and Hole Sponsorship Letters are now available from Service Ministry.



From

BLD Phoenix