

Month of March

WORD: *Jesus looks into the heart of those who imitate His life and receive His Spirit.*

READINGS

- Mar 02** 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ps 23:1-6
Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41
- Mar 09** Ez 37:12-14
Ps 130:1-8
Rom 8:8-11
Jn 11:1-45
- Mar 16** Is 50:4-7;
Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 13-24
Phil 2:6-11
Mt 26:14-27:66
- Mar 23** Acts 10:34a, 37-43;
Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8
Jn 20:1-9
- Mar 30** Acts 2:42-47
Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Pt 1:3-9
Jn 20:19-31

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Continue to persevere in faith; reconcile with God through the sacrament' and forgive and reconcile with those who have hurt and wronged you.*
2. *As children of God in Community, treat each other with God's goodness and righteousness.*
3. *Be a good witness in word and deed!*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *I will always be with you till the end of time; trust Me with all of your heart, mind and strength.*
2. *Do not be disheartened by your trials and difficulties because I am working on them; remain focused on me.*
3. *Be children of light and live My gospel of truth and love.*

Reflection for the Month of March 2008

Order: *“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”* (Eph 5:9)

Our word for March for the entire BLD Global Community is indeed appropriate as we meditate on Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, the culmination of His life of earth. It exhorts us to imitate the life of Christ and embrace our individual passion, death, and resurrection; and to receive and be blessed by the Holy Spirit. And Christ Jesus will recognize and judge us by the intentions of our heart, as he did to David; for **“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.”** (1 Sm 16:7b)

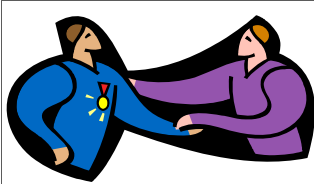
In the Gospel for the first Sunday in March, Jesus performs a miracle which symbolizes the essence of His saving mission – to enable His people to “see” God through the light of faith. **“Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is he, sir that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘I do believe, Lord!’ And he worshipped him.”** (Jn 9:35b-38) In enabling the man born blind to see, Jesus gave two gifts: the gift of sight and the gift of faith, a spiritual enlightenment more precious than physical sight.

As disciples of Christ, we acknowledge Jesus as the Light of our Life and are blessed with the gift of faith. But more than this, as children of light, we are tasked to share in Christ's saving mission by bringing His light to others by the life we live. As St. Paul encouraged the church in Ephesus, we too as present-day disciples are exhorted, **“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”** (Eph 5:8-9) Brothers and sisters, our theme for this week asks us to be true witnesses of Christ as **we imitate the life of Jesus and receive His Spirit by bringing His light to others.** As Christ is the Light of our Life, we are to be light to others not only this Lenten season but everyday of our lives.

In the second reading for the second Sunday in March, St. Paul presents the contrasts between being in the spirit and in the flesh, and between life and death. He proclaims the triumph over death through the power of the Spirit, as he writes, **“But you are not in the flesh. On the contrary, you are in the spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you... if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.”** (Rom 8:9a,10)

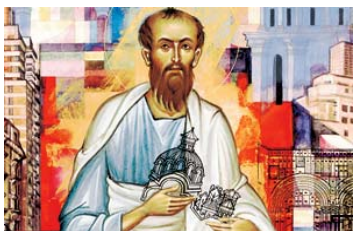
As disciples of Christ, whenever we are threatened with spiritual death caused by sin, let us claim our Lord's promise through the Prophet Ezekiel, **“I will put my spirit in you that you may live ...”** (Ez 37:14a) Let us open our hearts and allow the life-giving Spirit of Christ to flow in us. As Jesus proved His power over death in raising Lazarus to life, let us seek God's forgiveness and pray for our spiritual resurrection. Brothers and sisters, our theme for the second week asks us to live by the Spirit, as **we imitate the life of Jesus and receive His Spirit when we do not live according to the flesh.** Let us end our Lenten meditations with the commitment to live by the righteous example of Christ and believe His words, **“I am the resurrection and the life ... everyone who lives and believe in me will never die.”** (Jn 11:25-26a)

Continued in page 3...



Life in the Spirit Seminar #6 "Salubungan"

April 4, 2008 after 8pm Eucharistic Celebration (Healing Mass) at OLV.



'deeper appreciation of what He did to save all of us.'

"Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible" Guided Tour: Larry Fraher, Kino Institute, Formation and Education instructor, is at the museum between 10 am to 2 pm Saturday Mar 8, he will be available to give personal group tour.



"Reunited with the Lord"

On February 17th, the youth gathered at the Siongco household to spend a Saturday together. Many people woke up early, many people prepared, whether it was a prayer or food and



many gave rides to those who needed it. All of this was done just so the youth can gather together and spend time with their fellow YE friends

and the youth adults. For the waking up early and preparing, the reunion was definitely worth it.

Arriving slowly, the Youth and adults came, filling the house with food and talking. The girls enjoyed time in a room listening to music and talking together as the boys enjoyed their time in front of the TV. All were gathered into the living room to stand around in a circle and praise the Lord. A mini worship was held where all concentrated on the Lord and sang the praise songs loudly for him. After the mini praise and worship, the best part of every reunion happened. It was time to eat. Everyone took their plates and filled it with food making their way into the back yard to sit on couches and talk amongst each other. There were two separate tables but no one was left out in conversation. Each table ate together, laughing and talking loudly.



Following was the actual reunion part where the youth, as well as the youth adults gathered in the living room once again to play a game called, "Peace and War." A game that many of the youth called fun and were yelling about. The laughing, yelling and talking was calmed down to gather in a circle, bow their heads and end with a prayer. Overall, the youth reunion was a successful one. It brought together the youth in a house to pray and enjoy each other's company. They prayed and played an activity together, bringing back the unity that held them together during their own youth encounters. They were able to ask each other how their friends, that they might not have seen in a while, were doing. The youth were brought together for yet another reunion to be with the one that called them there in the first place. They were reunited to spend time with God.

BLD Phoenix Community Calendar 2008

May 16-18 - Life in the Spirit Seminar #6
June 6-8 - Marriage Encounter #8
July 25-27 - Youth Encounter #4
October 3-5 - Life in the Spirit Seminar #7

Ignatian Silent Retreat

There will be an **Ignatian Silent Retreat** with Fr. Manny Flores who is a professor at Loyola School of Theology in Ateneo de Manila University and the Director for Theologians at Arrupe International Residence, Jesuits Seminary.

April 11-Our Lady of the Valley Church(Orientation)

April 12 & 13-Franciscan Renewal Center

The Retreat's theme is **Leading, Loving, Living, Dying in Community**. Please register with BLD Secretariat through e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com or text at 480-208-9036/602-628-5116. The 2-day registration fee is \$50 and is inclusive of lunch and snacks. Participants are limited to 50 only so please send in your registration to save you a spot! Please grab a flyer found at the BLD Registration Area for more details.



Mar 30 - Filipino Sunday Mass at 5 pm
at Our Lady of the Valley
(Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

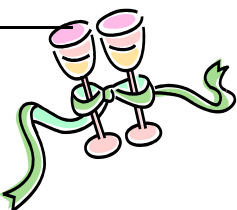
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Miggy Arrieta (YE 1)
- 4 - Cal Obispo (ME 7)
- 7 - Gee Go (ME 5)
- 9 - Marieta Rullan (LSS 3)
- 9 - Josie Mata (LSS 2)
- 10 - Cely Andaya (LSS 1)
- 14 - Ding Osorio (ME 2)
- 15 - Nikki Magnaye (YE 1)
- 20 - Luigi Castillo (YE 1)
- 21 - Joel Maravillas (ME 7)
- 25 - Frances Castillo (YE 2)
- 25 - May Siongco (ME 4)
- 27 - Paolo Castro (LSS 3)
- 29 - Imelda Abrea (LSS 3)



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Ross & Maria David (ME 5)
- 12 - Bing & Myra Magnaye (ME 1)
- 12 - Rob & Wendy Dinglasan (ME 5)
- 12 - Cal & Amor Obispo (ME 7)
- 16 - Joel & Chay Maravillas (ME 7)



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In the second reading for the third Sunday (Palm Sunday) in March, St. Paul presents to the community in Philippi the example of Christ's perfect humility, **"Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness. And found human in appearance, he humbled himself, obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** (Phil 2:6-8) If Christ our Lord disregarded His divinity and died a most humiliating death on the cross, who are we to cling to our humanness and to refuse to follow the humble and obedient example of Jesus?

As disciples of Christ, let us die to ourselves and renounce our pride and arrogance. Like Christ, let us be obedient to our Father's will despite humiliations. Let us endure our sufferings that we too like Christ may be glorified in the eyes of our Father. Brothers and sisters, our theme for the third week exhorts us to embrace the self-emptying attitude of humility as **we imitate the life of Jesus and receive His Spirit by dying unto ourselves.**" As we approach the climax of Christ's mission on earth, let us listen and live by St. Paul's words, **"I have discarded everything else, counting it as garbage, so that I may have Christ and become one with him."** (Phil 3:8b-9a)

In the second reading of the fourth Sunday (Easter Sunday) in March, St. Paul writes to the early Christians in Colosse, **"If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."** (Col 3:1-2) He encourages them to live in a way appropriate to their status as co-risen people of Christ.

As disciples of Christ, we acknowledge the role Christ's resurrection plays in salvation history. If Christ has not been raised, then His passion and death would be meaningless and our faith empty. However, Christ is risen! And His resurrection has ushered the dawn of a new era of triumph of what is above over what is on earth, of spirit over flesh, of life over death, and of hope over meaninglessness. And it is up to each one of us to accept this new era through an act of faith in Christ's resurrection. To believe in Christ's resurrection is to believe in our own resurrection, for **"When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory."** (Col 3:4). Brothers and sisters, as we believe in our life to come, let us now seek what is above, while here on earth. Our theme for the fourth week asks us to detach ourselves from what is on earth as **we imitate the life of Christ and receive His Spirit by seeking what is above.** Let us now live a "way of life" while we wait for the day when it will be our eternal "state of life".

In the Gospel for the fifth Sunday in March, Jesus appears to His disciples twice. On the first time, He greeted them with His peace and **"he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit ...'"** (Jn 20:22). On the second time, **"Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.' Thomas answered and said to him, 'My Lord and my God.'"** (Jn 20:26b-28) It is said that through His appearances, Jesus shared with His disciples the fruits of His resurrection, as His "Easter gifts"; namely: to restore peace to their troubled hearts, to awaken in them faith in Him, to have them share in His mission, and to empower them with the Holy Spirit.

As disciples of Christ, we acknowledge that His "Easter gifts" are forever. They are meant not just for disciples two thousand years ago, but are also intended for us today and for all believers till the end of time. All we need to do is accept them. Let us not be slow-to-believe Thomases, but proclaim Christ Jesus as our Lord and our God! Our theme for the fifth week asks us to accept Christ's "Easter gifts" and to **imitate the life of Jesus and receive His Spirit by professing in faith that He is our Lord and our God.** Brothers and sisters in Community, let us believe and be blessed with unity and solidarity as were the early Jerusalem communities, who **"devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to communal life, to the breaking of bread and to prayers."** (Acts 2:42)

IN OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY THERE WILL NOT BE ANY BLD ACTIVITY ON MARCH 21.

Experience and Celebrate the Paschal Triduum for this year's Lenten Season!

Check out the schedule of your respective parishes.

**Good Friday March 21
Black Saturday March 22
Easter Sunday March 23**

March Reflection Prayer

Father God, as we reflect on the passion, death, and resurrection of Your Son Christ Jesus this month, we ask You to grant us Your peace as we encounter our own passion, death, and resurrection, to awaken in us the faith to live Your way of life in expectation of Your glorious return, to bless us with the commitment to be the light to others as we share in Your mission, and to empower us with the Holy Spirit as we seek Your divine will. All these, Father God, we ask that our lives may be pleasing to You as Your children of light. Amen.

Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry:

- ◆ Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update Intercessory 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 dennycl220@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. Please check the Diocese website for training Schedule <http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>

Secretariat

- ◆ Please wear your community I.D. If you do not have one contact Evan & Joie Pangilinan directly or e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com.

Word:

- ◆ Share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer with the community thru an article (350 words max). E-mail to eunex@aol.com.

Strut to the rhythm of the 80's...ME #7 invites you to rock down to the...



80's Electric Avenue

An 80's themed dinner-dance on Saturday.

April 26, 2008 from 6pm-12mn at the **Philippine-Asian (Phil-Asian) Seafood Banquet Hall** located at 2710 W. Bell Road Ste. 1150 Phoenix AZ 85053 NW corner of I-17 & Bell Rd. near Super Saver Cinema within the Bell Canyon Pavillions

Tickets are available at \$35 for adults and \$20 for children 12 years and below.

You may please purchase tickets from any ME 7 class member or from your class Shepherds.

Come in your eightiest 80's attire and have the chance to win wonderful prizes!!!

BLD Phoenix Singles Encounter #2



Phoenix was just a bit too warm in February as it became the sports hub for football and golf enthusiasts: the Superbowl and the FBR Open both happened on the same weekend. One would think that people would get sluggish with a seeming hangover from such big events. The BLD Phoenix Singles beg to disagree. On February 8-10, a few days after the said events, Phoenix' SE#1 sponsored the DIP's 2nd SE held at the Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant in Peoria, AZ. The Pastoral Team consisted of Fr. David Sison and Newark singles: Glenn Canlas, Carol Manguiat, Paul Lazaro, Maris Manansala and Phoenix' very own James Laforzeza.

The Sponsoring Class (SE #1) would not have made this encounter a success without the help of the singles from other districts. Truly the Lord is gracious as He sent more workers in His vineyard. Singles from Newark, Seattle and the Bay Area came to serve as auxies. The BLD Phoenix Community's support was also in full force.

SE#2 produced 17 graduates whom Fr. Sison regarded as the only ones living amidst the seemingly lifeless desert as they were reborn in faith. Through the exercise of unity and the power of prayers, these 17 candidates experienced a change of heart where Christ now reigns in their hearts.

The BLD Community welcomes the graduates of SE#2: **Anika Baldevia, Fran Castillo, Brian Climaco, Angie David, John Deblois, Errol Belaro, Len Espiritu, Lucy Hachuela, Geoff Ibe, Thelma Kahano, Eddie Kammerer, DJ Korionoff, Matt Kodumal, Timaira Magnaye, Mike Querol, Charlene Saberom,**

