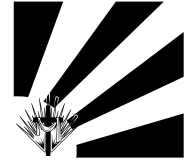




BLD PHOENIX

# VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2009

## Month of May

**WORD:** *Like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we must be after God's own heart.*

### READINGS

- May 03** Acts 4:8-12  
Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29  
1 Jn 3:1-2  
Jn 10:11-18
- May 10** Acts:9:26-31  
Ps 22:26-28, 30-32  
1 Jn 3:18-24  
Jn 15:1-8
- May 17** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Ps 98:1-4  
1 Jn 4:7-10  
Jn 15:9-17
- May 24** Acts 1:1-11  
Ps 47:2-3, 6-9  
Eph 1:17-23  
Mk 16:15-20
- May 31** Acts 2:1-11  
Ps 104:1,24,29-30,31,34  
1Cor12:3b-7,12-13  
Jn 20:19-23



### Inside April Issue:

- Sunday Readings for April..... pg 1
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- Of Precious and Awkward Moments ...pg4

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## MONTHLY COUNSELS

### May 10 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Witnessing)

**THEME:** We have God's own heart when we live the Word that others may hear and understand.

**PROMISE:** *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you."* (Jn 15:7)

**Reflection:** Friends may tire listening to us but do we ever tire extolling the virtues of our favorite book, movie or song? We sure can "build up" our selections and involve others to examine them and see for themselves what we have experienced. Before long, as friends often are of like mind, we become admirers of the same perspective. We might even begin to work on others to validate our preferences. There is no questioning that we have a great zeal for such matters. In BLD, those who have invited us into the community have had an "experience" or have met a "presence" that they may not have the eloquence to describe, but they do invite you to "Come and see," with as much enthusiasm as they have when they talk of their favorite movie or song. Watch and test their witness. *Not in word or speech but in deed and in truth*, their zeal is genuine. They are comfortable bringing up for conversation sin, God and salvation, topics others may never ever bring up yet sometimes others may welcome. In our world of relative truths and amorphous values they may be glad they have found someone with whom they could be open to such concerns with good reason and without fear.

**PRAYER:** Jesus, I thank you for the many blessings and gifts you have showered upon me. I have enthusiasm that characterizes my opinions on music, the theater, and even politics. Help me to show others that I have as much enthusiasm when I bear witness to you. Help me to be bold in my imitation of your sacrificial love and compassion.

**ORDER:** *"Remain in me."* (Jn 15:4)

**DIRECTION:** Be bold in witnessing. As often as you invite friends to a party or a movie, also invite them to the Eucharist. Invite them to join BLD. Invite old friends to come back home to BLD. Invite them back to our Friday prayer and worship. That is the way to love them, *in deed and in truth*. *You ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.*

### May 17 - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Compassion and Love)

**THEME:** We have God's own heart when we love one another with the love of Jesus.

**PROMISE:** *"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love...I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete."* (Jn 15: 10a, 11)

**Reflection:** We could all look back and tell a different story how we have come to call BLD our new family. It could have been a wily, persistent friend who may have worn us down. It was either to keep his friendship or to cast it away. Maybe, it was to accept a dare, a gamble of sorts, the bet "that you will find it irresistible." Maybe, it was mere curiosity. Or it could have been a relative or an older person whose invitation you accepted out of respect. Yet to the Lord, *whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him*. So in whatever ordinary and unusual way you have come, you have been welcomed with love by God and new friends. You are now home. To you, Jesus says, *"As the Father loves me, so I also love you."*

*Continued next page...*

Counsels continued from page 1...

It could seem that it was your spouse, friend or that someone who invited you, or you might even say that it was you yourself who made the ultimate choice. But you are wrong. "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you," says the Lord. Indeed, whomever God chooses to give a blessing is blessed. No one can withhold that blessing.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, you have revealed to me your saving power. Thank you that I am now home with a new family in whose company I too have received an outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Thank you, Jesus.

**ORDER:** "...love one another." (Jn 15:1)

**DIRECTION:** Love everyone including those who are difficult to love. Love equally, bearing with one another. Die to self in imitation of Christ. He came to redeem everyone – the lovable, the difficult to love and the unlovable.

**May 24 – Solemnity of our Lord’s Ascension (Advocacy)**

**THEME:** We have God’s own heart when, in Christ, we are co-defenders of the marginalized.

**PROMISE:** "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8)

**Reflection:** We are reminded in BLD through various teaching sessions the lessons and values our parents and elders taught us at home. We must love our neighbors out of love for Jesus with whom we are one as he is one with the Father. We are taught that we have a special precious unity with the poor, the lonely, the sick, the "lesser" in the eyes of men because upon them as upon all of us God’s same sun also shines and God’s same gentle breeze also blows. Each one of us has been redeemed by the same suffering Christ. We must love one another by being proactive advocates and intercessors of one another through prayer and good deeds. What little or much we have, we must share with all – advice, wisdom, company and practical resources, out of love, if we seek to be co-defenders with God of the least of our brethren. None of every kindness that we do is spontaneous goodness. All of it derives from the sole power of Jesus ascended into heaven who has sent the Holy Spirit to come upon us.

**PRAYER:** Jesus, I am so happy that you have called me to seek your face. Thank you for empowering me to be like you, a keeper of all my brothers and sisters who also stand in watch of me.

**DIRECTION:** Spread God’s gospel through teaching and witnessing. Encourage everyone to attend the BLD teachings that remind us of our roles as spouses, parents and members of a community. Intercede unceasingly for one another.

**May 31 – Pentecost Sunday (Healing and Counseling)**

**THEME:** We have God’s own heart when we exercise our spiritual gifts for the healing and wholeness of others.

**PROMISE:** "When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." (Ps 104:30)

**Reflection:** God’s grace he sent forth for our own salvation. Also, he empowers us with spiritual gifts which are meant for all others outside of ourselves that they too may see that everything can be made new. The Spirit of God fills us to overflow. What he has revealed to us, how can we keep it to ourselves? Our joy, our love, our peace – they are all for sharing. It is Pentecost. How can we not sing praises? How can we not raise our voices to the heavens? Alleluia. Alleluia.

Counsels continued...

**PRAYER:** Father from whom all blessings flow, send forth you spirit into our souls that we may raise hymns of praise, and worship and thanksgiving to you our supreme and only good forever and ever.

**ORDER:** "Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 20:32)

**DIRECTION:** Be open to God’s forgiveness. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Empty your being and die to self. Make room for the gifts of the Spirit. Only when you are empty and oblivious to self can the Spirit fill you with love that seeks no gain but yearns for the good of all. †

**HEALTH ADVICE**

*We may have all heard about the Swine flu pandemic/ epidemic breaking into US grounds (or should we say, air). As a community where we gather as a crowd, we may want to consider the following guidelines very similar as the guidelines followed by our own respective parishes:*

We come to the Church because we need God...especially in times of difficulty and distress. When it comes to contagious disease... God would also expect us to be prudent and cautious so as not to cause further difficulty and distress. With the current swine flu fears... if we’re not feeling so hot, best to follow the doctor’s best advice and **stay home!!!** Most doctors would suggest what follows.



**If you’re ill** - First, don’t panic. It’s still flu season in Arizona, so onset of illness doesn’t automatically mean it is swine flu. Consider your symptoms. Flu in general is characterized by high fever (above 100 degrees), chills, lethargy and loss of appetite.

Reported swine-flu symptoms also include runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. See a physician as soon as possible if you’re not well. Swine flu and some seasonal flu respond well to anti-virals. Stay home from work and keep your child home if he/she is sick. You don’t want to infect anyone else.

*"Ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks find, and to him who knocks be opened." Matt 7:7-9*

**ANSWERED PRAYERS FOR APRIL**

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 job promotion               | 6 healings (physical/health) |
| 1 new healthy baby boy        | 1 successful business        |
| 1 gift of a child (pregnancy) | 1 beautiful wedding          |

*"Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours." Mark 11:24*

Please continue to pray for your own personal intentions and especially for those who need our prayers. Please find prayer petition forms available at every Friday praise and worship or contact Intercessory Ministry. Please update the ministry heads for continuing prayers and answered prayers. †

**April Teaching Schedule**

Teaching: Intercession, Forgiveness and Anointing  
For All Encounter and LSS Graduates (Adults)

When: May 31, 2009 at 12noon to 4PM,

Where: VHC Offices 1212 N Spencer St., Mesa 85203

## “Forever Grateful”

Last September of 2008, after a routine exam I was asked by my physician to come in and discuss results of my lab work. After that discussion, he referred me to an Endocrinologist who followed up with more extensive testing. This resulted in a diagnosis of parathyroid cancer. I was given the choice of chemotherapy to slow down the progress or, have no treatment and die of the terminal illness by February of this year. Shocked by the news, I tried to be strong and continued to live my life as a normal person. Angry and confused, I had decided to retire from my work as a nurse, go to New Mexico, and join a group that believed in dignity with death.

I shared my situation with the owner of the hospice that I have worked for, and she told me that, I must stay and that she would bring a priest that she knew that would talk to me. During this time, before the priest came, I chose to have treatment with chemotherapy that made me so sick. I opted to stop the treatment but continued to talk with the priest.

I was invited to join the SPE3 weekend last February, and to me, it was an eye opener which started the healing process of my body and soul. I was so touched by that experience especially with the love I had seen from the community. I realized that my God is full of compassion, love and mercy to His people especially to me. I attended the healing mass last February and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as I rested in his presence when the priest prayed over me. I felt a tight band wrapped around my head, and a warm feeling throughout my body. I felt that something touched me under my chin, hands that seemed to press down my neck. This was my first healing mass that I attended, and since then, I have been faithful in attending praise and worship every Friday, and I always felt the healing that God gave me. I went back to the doctor for my second check-up of my parathyroid and the doctor was surprised because he could not find signs of the tumor and the lab work verified that there were no excessive secretions by the tumor. During the follow up for the parathyroid, additional lab work was drawn, which included liver tests which had extremely high levels. I have a history of alcoholism, which has never given me a problem until these tests proved that I might have full-blown cirrhosis. The doctor advised me to get another test. He found out that, the liver was less than 50% operational and, that I would be looking for dialysis within a few months. At that time, my primary doctor decided that it would be wise to do full body MRI, and CT scan. There is a history of breast cancer in my family including my mother and sister. My x-ray showed shadows within my left breast, which resulted in the doctor ordering a biopsy which located the tumor, and the doctor gave me the choice of chemotherapy or breast removal. I asked for a second opinion and it was found that one of the country's renowned Oncologists was going to be visiting Mesa, and would be willing to come by and do the biopsy and possible breast removal. She came and tried very hard to find the breast tumor that was present in the previous ultrasound and could not find it. She asked if I would allow her to do the biopsy herself, using

## A Marriage Encounter Experience

(Shared by one of the ME 9 graduates)

*The expression "Thank You" is not enough to convey our sincerest gratitude, to you, for being God's messengers to fulfill His plan for us to attend the recently concluded ME # 9.*

*The whole experience was amazing. It's beyond anyone's expectation. I could not find the right word or the proper adjective to describe it. It's priceless! It's unbelievable! It's heavenly! I could feel the Creator's presence at a higher level throughout the event - in the interior of the reflection area and throughout the camp site; through the sound of the cold mountain breeze touching the fine needles of the aged pine trees guarding us; through the coldness of night and the freshness of the air we breathe in the morning. You could feel God's presence through the silent sobbing of the participants and the unselfish and sincere narration of their life experiences by the sharers; through the sermons of the priest and through the synchronized workings of the people behind the scene. You could feel His presence inside your body and soul and into your heart. It was an incredible event, indeed.*

*The experience made us closer to God, closer to each other and closer to the rest of our families and to our friends.*

*All the people who helped to make this encounter possible are commendable. They are great. In behalf of my wife, and myself, thank you very, very much.*

Please share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer thru an article (350 words max). Please E-mail to [wordministry@bldphoenix.com](mailto:wordministry@bldphoenix.com).

*"We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem..." Acts 10:39*

## “Forever Grateful” continued...

the information from the previous ultrasound since she could not locate the tumor on the current ultrasound. I asked the doctor if she believed in the power of prayer and she just laughed at me. She told me that prayer does not get rid of cancer. She still did the biopsy, left the room to check the cells and said she will be back in 5-10minutes after she had the opportunity to look at the cells from the biopsy that she had just completed. She returned and was very angry because there was no cancer cell in the biopsy. She said that she didn't know what happened since it was very clear there were cancer cells in the first biopsy and nothing in the current. She pulled off the gloves and threw the gloves on the instrument tray and told me to come back in 6 months. She called me the next morning and apologized for her reaction, and again stated that the power of prayer does not get rid of cancer.

Despite this bad news about my health, I did not lose hope and prayed to God that He would take care of me, and prayed hard for my health. My faith in God got stronger everyday and I asked the Lord to heal me and guide me to do His will. I now realize that God loves me and I know now that He has a plan for me, and I just have to listen to Him. I am truly grateful for this community, which has allowed me to see the love of God through its members. The care and support that they have shown me has truly touched my heart. I cannot thank God enough for what He has done for me and I will be forever grateful to Him, and as I had professed before, I will serve Him with all my strength and love as long as I live. Amen. PY

## Flowers of May, Flowers for Mary

Stop and smell the roses. During the month of May, in the tropical islands of the Philippines, we don't have to stop -- the fragrance of flowers floats in the air.

When the rains begin to pour after a long dry spell (April), flowers are said to bloom overnight. And being predominantly Catholic, the Filipinos celebrate the beneficial rains by giving thanks to the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Ave Maria!

The townsfolk gather the colorful flowers to decorate the Parish Church altars and aisles. They bundle the blooms in exotic arrangements for the many different festivities all together referred to as the "Flores De Mayo" (Flowers of May). Many towns celebrate Flores De Mayo with the community congregating in the afternoons to pray the rosary, offer flowers to the Virgin Mary, and share homemade delicacies and snacks. Children and adults wearing their Sunday best, sing and dance to welcome the rains that will water the new crops. In many parishes, these afternoon festivities culminate in an elaborate procession to the Church where an evening mass is celebrated. The procession is called "Santacruzán" (Festival of the Holy Cross), a commemoration of the finding of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem by Saint Helena, mother of Constantine the Great.

The highlight of the procession is the majestic Reyna Elena (Queen Helena) who walks with her consort, Prinsipe Constantino (Prince Constantine), under a huge canopy of May flowers. Immediately behind her is a float carrying the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by a brass band that lends the festive sounds to the procession.

As the pageant moves along the streets, devotees holding lit candles follow, and join in the rosary, novena, and songs of praise. This Filipino tradition ("The Queen of May Festivities"), introduced by the Spanish conquerors, is more than 100 years old and lives on even in Europe and America. Filipino Communities and Associations all over the world celebrate the Santacruzán with the same pageantry and glamor as the townsfolk in their homeland.

On **May 31, 2009** at **Our Lady of the Valley Church**, join the Filipino community just before the 5 pm Mass as the Blessed Virgin Mary will be processed around the church and flowers will be offered to the Blessed Virgin after the Mass. Happy Mother's Day, Mama Mary!

### THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of April 2009  
*Receipts* \$3,514.00  
*Disbursements* \$1,020.76  
*Surplus (Deficits)* \$2,493.24

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

### BIRTHDAYS

1 - Joie Pangilinan (ME 5)	16 - Lina Alba (ME 1)
3 - Mary Ann Korte (ME 3)	18 - Ning Laforteza
9 - Nelson Reyes	19 - Michael Querol (YE 1)
13 - Malie Gabriel	19 - Chita Dilema
13 - Ann Palacio	23 - Jun Saguid (ME 6)
15 - Eden Sebial (SPE 1)	30 - Jess Laforteza
15 - Erlinda Clarin (SPE 1)	

### ANNIVERSARIES

7 - Evan & Joie Pangilinan (ME 5)  
 8 - Pete & Eve Parian (ME9)  
 12 - John & Christine Minch (ME9)  
 19 - Steve & Dory Hey (ME 4)  
 28 - Joseph & Milrose Kodumal (ME5 NWK)



## "UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS"

A Retreat with Fr. Pete Literal

When: June 6, 2009 from 1 PM to 8 PM

Where: Madonna Hall at Queen of Peace  
 141 N Macdonald St Mesa, AZ 85201

This day's event will end with a Eucharistic Celebration

Please bring your Bible, Notebook and Pen

Dinner will be served at \$6/head.

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH SECRETARIAT**

### Of Precious and Awkward Moments

There was a time I always had a camera in tow. I have no regrets with all the memories and pictures captured in color which document love and health and that precious slice of time gone by. But, I would have wished to have first hugged my children, for instance, during their music recitals, instead of first imposing the discipline of the camera for posterity's sake. To record the children's birthday parties or their graduations, for example, and to immortalize many other occasions that are the highlights of parental pride, it might now seem easy to suggest what a father would have loved to have done first but could not for fear of losing that once upon a lifetime moment. But does any one remember that a father might also be missing a once upon a lifetime moment of demonstrating his genuine, spontaneous affection when he is armed with the imperious camera?

And then also, there were the awkward moments in the family that a camera could not have recorded - the coming home way past curfew; the lone, late visitor in the apartment; the violation of confidence; the angry grief in the night, "And so, you don't trust me?" Those were trying moments with scarce any more time or energy left when the parental soul had become bruised and lonely. This is what would have been said, if not at that awkward time, then when the hour was ripe:

Would you understand that when one is angry there might not be much thinking going on to choose an appropriate response? There are rules of family and friendships and other relationships. They are not impossible rules at all. They are there and they have helped us avoid mistakes, poor choices and lapses of good conduct. You see, we were not ourselves born with original, made to order good values. We were, in fact, born without any values, until we are taught them and learn to commit to them. Do you understand why we say these things?

### Life in the Spirit Seminar #8 (LSS 8)

June 19, 2009 (Friday) Invocation Mass  
 June 20-21 (Sat & Sun) LSS Day 1 & Day 2  
 Queen of Peace Parish, Mesa, AZ  
 Spiritual Director: Msgr. Schetelick

Dear Children:

*In the beginning there were just your mother and me.  
 You helped, by making us grow as we fed you,  
 And by making us strong when we helped you on your feet.  
 Maybe, though it may seem strange at first, you were really  
 The nurturing environment that brought us to maturity.  
 Through you, we had become complete.  
 We thank God and you for giving us  
 More than one chance to have loved, generously.*



Archdiocese of Jaro

**THE EMERGED SERVANT LEADERS**  
For 2009 – 2012

I would like, first of all, to express my profound gratitude to the outgoing Executive Council of Servant Leaders and District Servant Leaders. They have done their work well, with much sacrifice on each one of them. God bless them for having been a blessing to the Bukas Loob sa Dios Community and to the Church.

With this Pastoral Letter, I am pleased to announce to Bukas Loob Sa Dios Community the Executive Council of Servant Leaders (ECSL) and the District Servant Leaders (DSL) for the next triennium (2009-2012), who have been emerged by the different Districts of BLD – the fruit of prayerful discernment with consultation.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF SERVANT LEADERS**

Sison, Eliong and Leah  
Andres, Dan and Ludy  
Jalandoni, Jojo and Koi  
Malay, Ed and Malou  
Garcia, Raul and Mari

**DISTRICT SERVANT LEADERS**

Salud, Boy and Nena	DSL – Manila Cluster
Lacson, Ted and Marivic	DSL – Bacolod Cluster
Jakosalem, Ferdie and Corie	DSL – Cebu Cluster
Pacana, Ed & Leclec	DSL – Davao Cluster
Florido, Levi and Helen	DSL – San Pablo Cluster
Tipoe, Arse and Maggie	DSL – Zamboanga Cluster
De la Fuente, Richard and Lee	DSL – Newark Cluster
Bacani, Rene and Cherry	DSL – Rockville, LI Cluster
Kitane, Robert and Cely	DSL – Toronto Cluster

The process of emergence and discernment does not disvalue those who have not been actually chosen. When the twelve apostles were presented two disciples, Barnabbas and Matthias, which of the two would be one of the twelve, they chose Matthias (AA1/23-26). Yet we know that Barnabbas who was not chosen to be one of the 12, became a great companion of Paul in his first missionary journey together with Mark. Paul was neither one of the chosen twelve, yet he was acknowledged by the Head of the Apostles, Peter, to be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

What is important in the emergence is that the work of God is served through the Church. The emergence of some is for the apostolate or ministry of all.

*Continued next page...*

In 2010 we will be celebrating the **SILVER JUBILEE OF BLD**. And on this occasion, I am appointing the *outgoing ECSL* to be the taskforce or secretariat of the preparation for the Silver Jubilee which will include the issuing of a **Coffee Table Book** of the BLD and the preparation of the forthcoming **Interdistrict Conference of BLD**, probably in 2011.

This arrangement will allow the *incoming ECSL* for adjustment to the day to day functions for BLD.

At this point in time, the work of **BLD-GAWAD KALINGA** must be given great importance. I believe that it is in good management of those who are already in the work.

### **BLD – GAWAD KALINGA Core Group**

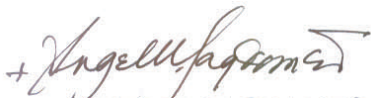
Pascua, Ric and Rizza  
Josef, Kiko and Aida  
Fragante, Ray and Susan  
Regalado, Andrew and Tet  
Cunanan, Gerry and Celia  
Viñas, Joey and Marivic

Likewise, I would like every Full Term District, Fullpledged District and District in Process to include the work of Gawad Kalinga and the offering of *Scholarships to the “poorest of the poor”* students (not necessarily only to “intelligent” ones).

The BLD everywhere, as individuals or communities must help alleviate poverty through works of charity, lessen poverty through works of development (such as Gawad Kalinga), and eliminate poverty through works of justice.

We will not be able to solve entirely the problem of poverty in the country, but the example of the early Christians, is presented to us, to be “of one mind and heart...” so that there may be “no needy person among them.” (AA 4/32-35) I would like finally to express my gratitude to the 2009 Community Committee on Emergence Overseers (CCEO), composed of Tony P. Suiza, Ding Ding Y. de los Reyes and Lydia M. Mejia for overseeing the process and conduct of the Emergence Process 2009 of BLD.

All for God’s Glory ... to him be honor and glory forever.



+ ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO  
Archbishop of Jaro &  
BLD Spiritual Director  
April 30, 2009