

**Month of May**

WORD: *When God dwells in us, we can love with the unconditional love of Christ.*

READINGS

May 06 Acts 14:21-27

Ps 145:8-13

Rv 21:1-5a

Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

May 13 Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Rv 21:10-14, 22-23

Jn 14:23-29

May 20 Acts 1:1-11

Ps 47:2-3, 6-9

Eph 1:17-23

or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Lk 24:46-53

May 27 Acts 2:1-11

Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

or Rom 8:8-17

Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Allow yourself to be used in spreading the good news of salvation in your respective homes, offices, and neighborhood. (John 13:34)*
2. *Strengthen reconciliation and fraternal correction processes in the Community. (Mat 18:15-17; 21-35)*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Allow Me to use you so that others may feel My redeeming love.*
2. *The hardships you undergo are ways through which you can enter my Kingdom.*

DCS Reflection for May

This month, the scripture touches on love, hardship, kingdom of God, heaven and the Pentecost. In essence it touches on our Catholic teachings summarized in the Nicene Creed.

We know that God is Love-one of the four basic truths. Jesus Christ came to save us because God loves us. Jesus showed us how to love by personal witnessing and by his teachings. His command to us is, to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves serving as well as a condition to enter the Kingdom of God and enjoy the reward of Heaven.

Jesus' glorious resurrection, body and soul, is the foundation of our Christian faith. Sending the Holy Spirit to the disciples on Pentecost, He gave the empowerment and gifts to the unlearned to accomplish the grand commission. He gave all of us the ability to bring the Gospel to the end of the World.

Christ suffered hardship, passion and death. We expect no less. Without hardship, there will be no passion, no death-there will not be any resurrection for us.

The ultimate desire for all creatures is to be in the presence of the creator. No one knows what heaven is like except Jesus who came from Heaven and is now in Heaven with the Father. However, in many parables, Jesus explained what the Kingdom of God is like-in turn what heaven is like. God created man and put him in the Garden of Eden where there is no death, no worldly needs and man was to be in constant presence of God. The Garden of Eden, may be considered then to be like heaven.

God gave us life by giving us a body and soul. Death is the separation of soul from the body. Who ever dies with Christ will rise with Christ. Our final risen body and soul in the presence of our creator with no more death and no worldly needs, is it not our heaven?

Jesus promises his presence in the Church in form of the Holy Spirit; loving, guiding and empowering all of us, with or without our own human ability, to carry out the grand commission he entrusted to us.

We are to bring the Gospel to all nations, with the hope of leading all to heaven, even with great hardship, it will be accomplished in His time.

BLD Phoenix Order and Direction:

Order: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." "... recompense to each according to his deeds."
"As the Father has sent me, so I send you"

Direction: With the gift of life-giving water, bear our own hardship with joy and determination; endure each other, while we do God's work.
All are welcome in the our community.

MAY TEACHINGS

May 27, 2007 - 12 Noon to 4:30PM :

Walking in the Spirit
The Mind of Jesus

OLV Room 7 or any room available

This teaching is for all LSS graduates

Pope Hails May as Marian Month

VATICAN CITY, MAY 6, 2007 - Benedict XVI is proposing that the month of May brings believers to return to the faith of the early Church and, united with Mary, become witnesses of the risen Christ.

The Pope made his proposal today from the window of his study before reciting the Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) together with thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The Holy Father recalled that for many Christian communities May "is the Marian month par excellence, ... valued by pastors as a propitious occasion for preaching, catechesis and community prayer."

The month of May, he explained, "is quite propitious for illustrating the figure of Mary as the Mother who accompanies the community of disciples united in prayer in expectation of the Holy Spirit."

The Pontiff added: "Consequently, this month can be an occasion to return to the faith of the primitive Church and, in union with Mary, understand that our mission even today is to proclaim and bear witness with courage and joy to Christ crucified and risen, the hope of humanity."

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1). Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

New Committed Community Members

BLD Phoenix has recently been added with 10 more committed members. During the Healing Mass on April 14, 2007, seven members pledged their commitment to God through service in the BLD Community: Jonathan Lureñana, Eunice Lureñana, Cecilia Andaya, Eva Ward, Evan Pangilinan, Joie Pangilinan and Erlinda Clarin. On May 4, 2007, during this month's 1st Friday Mass, three more members pledged to the same commitment: Leonora Beronia, Chita Delima and Harmon Delima. We invite the community to continue to pray for the mentioned members and the rest of the members of BLD Phoenix as they each journey onto the fulfillment of their pledges for the glory of God.

Sacrament of Marriage: Sign of Faithful Love

May 4, 2007- BLD Phoenix' First Friday Mass at Our Lady of the Valley Church was a special day because it was the day Mike and Sevilla Sandstedt of Phoenix exchanged their marriage vows to each other. The couple became one in the eyes of man but most especially in the eyes of God. The ceremony was officiated by Fr. Eugene Cagoco of the Most Holy Trinity Parish in Phoenix. BLD Phoenix covenant community members were present and helped out and witnessed the special event. After the wedding, a special anointing was held for all those present.

The simple wedding reception was held at the adjoining classrooms in the church. It was attended by the couple's family and friends as well as the BLD Phoenix members. There were plenty of food and fun.

Special thank you is in order to Jack Marquez, Mario De Leon, Chit and Harmon Dilema for the assistance in making this event possible and of course to the BLD Phoenix Praise Ministry for providing the wedding songs. Steve and Dory Hey (BLD Phoenix M.E. 4 graduates) were also sponsors in the wedding.

The BLD Phoenix Covenant Community then extends its congratulations and blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Sevilla Sandstedt.

In each of the sacraments a window opens and we can glimpse the mystery of God and God's plan for the salvation of the world. In Christian marriage we see that God was not content to be alone, but embarked on a whole new life project. Out of love God created us and all that is. God is faithful no matter what. Whether we are faithful or faithless, God is faithful; whether we wander away in sin or remain in the embrace of love, God is always there and is ever ready to embrace us.

This sacramental sign, which the husband and wife give to each other, they also give to the entire community of witnesses. Each one of us has also made commitments to God and God has made commitments to us. There are times when we wonder if God will be faithful. We have never seen God, but we can see the fidelity of Christian husbands and wives. Their love for each other is a sacramental sign and witness of God's love for us. We believe that our human lives are interconnected, like a fabric, woven together by many commitments. The fidelity of their commitment strengthens our own commitments.

The BLD Phoenix Covenant Community will hold its 7th **Marriage Encounter (M.E. 7) on November 9-11, 2007**

Please check www.BLDPhoenix.com for more details.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

--Genesis 2:24

BLD Phoenix Youth Encounter #3

"I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth just as we were commanded by the Father." (2 Jn 1:4)

May 4-6, 2007, Prescott AZ - Thirteen youngsters attended BLD Phoenix Covenant Community's 3rd Youth Encounter (Y.E. 3). It was indeed a weekend for young people, facilitated by renewed young Christians who have themselves found God not only through their own weekend encounter but through the friendships made after their own Youth Encounter Weekend. Four young sharers from BLD Newark District and one from Phoenix comprised of the Pastoral Team: Eugene Vibar, Anthony Duma, Phoebe Garcia, Melissa Garcia and Marie "Louise" Lazaro (from Phoenix). The YE weekend had Fr. Tito Ignacio as the Spiritual Director, and he is also from New Jersey. The class of YE 3 will be led by youth class shepherds, Michael Querol (YE 1 Phoenix) and Jessamin Go (YE 2 Phoenix) together with their adult counterpart class shepherds, Evan & Joie Pangilinan (ME 5 Phoenix).

The YE 3 graduates are the following:

Aladin, Miguel	Galicía, Lorenzo	Espiritu, Van	Siongco, Mitchie	Alata, Leah
Bovaird, Peter	Galicía, Paolo	Hey, Clark	Soden, Jessica	Dillard, Kyle
	Edmond, Jordan	Uchimura, Kaitlyn	Omega, Rob	

BLD Phoenix welcomes all these young people as they open themselves in heart and mind to know more about the Lord in the hopes of finding themselves truly living in the Catholic Christian life.

"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity."

1 Timothy 4:12



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Joie Pangilinan (ME 5)
- 3 - Mary Ann Korte (ME 3)
- 5 - Rob Dinglasan (ME 5)
- 8 - Mike Martinez (ME 5)
- 14 - Michael Cassano (ME 5)
- 15 - Eden Sebial (SPE 1)
- 15 - Erlinda Clarin (SPE 1) 16 - Lina Alba (ME 1)
- 18 - Ning Laforteza (ME 1 Reno)
- 19 - Michael Querol (YE 1)
- 19 - Chita Dilema (May 19)
- 21 - Mikee Delos Trinos (YE 2)
- 23 - Jun Saguid (ME 6)
- 30 - Jess Laforteza (ME 1 Reno)

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Evan & Joie Pangilinan (ME 5)
- 19 - Steve & Dory Hey (ME 4)
- 28 - Joseph & Milrose Kodumal (ME5 NWK)



BLD Phoenix 2007 Encounters and Seminars

- 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
- Nov 9-11** Marriage Encounter #7

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

www.BLDPhoenix.com

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)

May 27 Filipino Sunday Mass - 5:00 PM at OLV
(Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

Church Calendar

May 17 - The Ascension of the Lord

(Observed on the 20th Seventh Sunday of Easter)

May 27 - Pentecost Sunday

May 31-Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

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 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>

WEEKLY THEME AND PROMISE

Week#1 (5th Sunday of Easter) – [Perseverance]

Theme: We love with Christ's unconditional love when we persevere in faith despite hardships.

Promise: *"God himself will always be with them, as their God."*
(Rev 21:3b)

Week#2 (6th Sunday of Easter) – [Simplicity]

Theme: We love with Christ's unconditional love when we allow the Holy Spirit to renew burdensome community policies.

Promise: *"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."* (John 14:26)

Week #3 (Ascension of the Lord) – [Truthfulness]

Theme: We love with Christ's unconditional love when we relate to one another with sincerity and trust.

Promise: *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."*
(Acts 1:8)

Week #4 (Pentecost Sunday) – [Prayerfulness]

Theme: We love with Christ's unconditional love when we overcome fear and our slavery to sin through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Promise: *"For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."* (Rom 8:13)

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of March 2007

<i>Receipts</i>	\$ 3,011.00
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 565.00
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$ 2,446.00

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Filipino Bishops Prepare for Elections

Call for Prayer and Issue Voting Guidelines

MANILA, Philippines, MAY 3, 2007- Bishops are trying to prepare Filipinos for the May 14 national elections, calling above all for prayer.

The president of the bishops' conference of the Philippines, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, said in a statement: "We exhort everyone to be vigilant, to pray and to offer penance for this intention.

"May the hand of God stop evil from getting control. We need the Lord's help, without which our best efforts will come to nothing."

The statement urges communities and parishes nationwide to organize Holy Hours of prayer from May 5 to election day. Contemplative men and women in more than 100 monasteries nationwide are encouraged to pray for the country, "especially for all voters, candidates and election officials and workers," said the bishops' statement.

Guidelines

Archbishop Lagdameo, during his May Day reflections, said that candidates should prove they are worth the peoples' vote by addressing the country's labor crisis.

The archbishop remarked that government leaders of the future must consider the labor condition a priority as the country struggles with an unemployment rate of 8.7%.

Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales of Manila, issued a statement urging the lay faithful to take seriously their role as citizens through active participation in responsible voting.

Cardinal Rosales' statement, read in all churches within the Manila Archdiocese, called on the clergy and the faithful to vote for candidates who: love and fear God; are guided by a well-formed conscience and are thus sensitive to the choice of what is good; live and serve consistently with moral principles; are honest, nonviolent and compassionate.

The 74-year-old cardinal lamented, "In the past, enormous sufferings resulted from political ambitions, maneuvers and group adventurism resulting in the country's poor becoming even poorer."

To comply with Our Lady of the Valley's request that all activities end at 10:30 PM, please be informed that the praying of the Holy Rosary will start at 7:15 PM and the Praise and Worship will start promptly at 7:30 PM.