



Valley of the SON

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2007

Month of October

WORD: *We proclaim the Kingship of Christ as we witness to His work in our lives.*

READINGS

Nov 04	Wis 11:22-12:2 Ps 145:1-2,8-11,13,14 2Thes1:11-2:2 Lk 19:1-10
Nov 11	2Mac 7:1-2,9-14 Ps 17:1,5-6,8,15 2Thes2:16-3:5 Lk 20:27-38
Nov 18	Mal 3:19-20 Ps 98:5-9 2Thes3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19
Nov 25	2Sam 5:1-3 Ps 122:1-5 Col 1:12-20 Lk 23:35-43

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. Show to your brothers and sisters in Community the same infinite love & unconditional mercy Christ has for you.
2. Help build the faith of Community by using the gifts and blessings that God has given us. Go out and put your faith into action.

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. Come, my child, my precious one, I am your God & King who is caring & merciful; rest in me for your heart will remain restless until it rests in Me.

ORDER (BLD GLOBAL):

“Therefore you...warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O Lord!” (Wisdom 12:2)

Reflections for November

The Word for the month of November is: “We proclaim the Kingship of Christ as we witness to His work in our lives.” But before we can proclaim the kingship of Christ, we need to review what His kingdom is all about. The kingdom of God has a triple significance. It refers first, to the Kingdom of God present when our hearts are in grace; second, to the Kingdom of God on earth which is the church; and third, to the Kingdom of God in heaven. (Conversations with God, Vol. 5 by Francis Fernandez. p.194)

Our hearts are in grace when we remain in the love of Jesus and follow His commandments. We acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus who is the head of the church when we, as Catholics, remain faithful to the Catholic Church, the bishops and the priests; and our lives are centered on Jesus, looking forward to our heavenly home.

During the whole month of November, we are encouraged to reflect on and review our relationship with Jesus Christ. We need to examine ourselves if we truly consider Jesus as our King who with complete dominion over our lives; a King that we follow daily; not only when we attend Sunday mass, go to our Prayer Meetings, Word Sharing Circles, and other BLD activities, but in all aspects of our lives. If we consider Jesus as our king, then we can pray: *“I will extol You, O my God and King and I will bless Your Name forever and ever. Every day will I bless You and I will praise Your Name forever and ever.”* (Ps 145:1-2)

In the Lord’s Prayer, when we pray *“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Mt 6: 10), we are asking that the Church may grow throughout the world for the salvation of souls. And as members of the Church, we commit ourselves to do what we can to extend the Kingdom of God. It is not enough to pray for the Kingdom of God to come, we need to match our prayers with deeds. (Catechism of the Council of Trent, IV, 10, 2).

The Theme for the first week of November is: **Christ is the King of our lives when we repent of our sins and make amends (Reparation).** The readings for this week tell us that Jesus has mercy on all of us. He overlooks our sins when we repent because He loves all the things He has made. He cannot loathe His creation. Jesus is our Lord and King, the Lover of our souls. (Wis 11: 23 –24; 26) Jesus welcomes every one who repents and seeks His forgiveness. In the Gospel, Jesus shows His loving care and concern to a sinner and outcast named Zaccaheus, who was a chief tax collector, hated by the Jews of his time. We too, can approach Jesus through a priest whenever we sin. Then we can make amends, or do the required penance as a sign of sincere repentance. When we go to confession, we witness to others that we are sinners in need of a Savior, Jesus, who is Lord and King in our lives. We witness to others that we do not want to lose the Kingdom of God. The Promise for this week is: *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”* (Lk 19:10)

In the second week, the Theme is: **Christ is King of our lives when we believe in the resurrection of the dead (Faith).** The first reading shows the faithfulness of the seven brothers and their mother to God. They knew that their suffering could not compare to the eternal joy awaiting them in the life after death. We may never have to witness to our faith by such a cruel death, but we are called to be faithful to our calling as servants of our King, Jesus Christ. We have died and continue to die to our former way of life.

Continued in page 3...

Following the Lord's Call

It was a beautiful and historic weekend last month (October 19-21, 2007) when nineteen committed members of the BLD Phoenix community participated in the first community-sponsored Aspirants' Retreat. The weekend retreat was held at the Living Water Retreat Center, a peaceful, high mountain desert oasis in Cornville, Arizona.

Fr. Paul Lehman, the retreat's Spiritual Director, spoke about the importance of obedience and humility as prime characteristics for one who wished to become a disciple or a follower of Jesus Christ. Fr. Lehman also expounded on other topics, such as: discipleship, prayer, and discernment. We were also blessed by the presence of our new Mission Steward from BLD Newark, Mon Chan (his wife, Bingle, was unable to accompany him), who not only shared his own struggles with obedience but also assisted Crosby Cortez in the Praise ministry. Other local sharers included Cita Rivera (Discipleship), Jess Laforteza (Cost of Discipleship), Milrose Kodumal (Test of Discipleship: Community), and our own DIP Shepherd, Chito Ciocon (Rewards of Discipleship).

The focus of the retreat was to help the aspirants discern whether they were being called to a deeper relationship with the Lord and how they should answer that call. After each teaching session and in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament, the participants reflected on questions about their own personal discipleship journey. For each aspirant, it was a time of refreshment, of contemplation, and of listening to the Lord. However, the weekend retreat was not an end in itself but merely the beginning of a discernment period. During the following weeks and months, the aspirants would still need to complete their CDFP teachings. In addition, they would also be required to attend several "discipling sessions" where they would learn, study, and discuss the unique values, norms, and culture of life in the BLD community. All these are preparatory steps in order to help them decide whether or not to seal their covenants with the Lord through the BLD Phoenix community.

Let us continue to pray for our first home-grown batch of aspirants that they will not only hear God's Word but also respond to His soft, whisper-like invitation to become His disciples. Let us welcome the following aspiring members and assure them of our prayers: Gerry & Gladdine Bautista, Jonathan & Eunice Lurenana, Evan & Joie Pangilinan, Eden Sebial, Rey & MaryAnn Conopio, Denny & Nina Custodio, James Laforteza, Manny & May Siongco, Cecilia Andaya, Mario De Leon, Harmon & Chit DeLima, and Arlene Junia. *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).*



Come Follow Me...My Call to Discipleship: An Aspirant's Reflection

"Come, follow me"... How do I see myself as Christ calls me to be His disciple? Am I ready? Am I willing to give up everything for Christ and be a covenanted member of the BLD community?

We came to the Aspirant's Retreat thinking it would be deeper than the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS). There were some sharing; some tears shed but definitely more praying to God to enlighten our minds. There was a profound and close examination of our lives spiritually, devotedly and emotionally in preparation for covenanting. To us, the weekend's focus is **obedience** and knowing ourselves because only we can answer the question, "Are you ready to become a disciple of Christ by becoming a covenanted member?" We know this will require us to set more time for God and the community. Are we ready, knowing, that we will have to learn to give up the pleasures and conveniences of life? Are we prepared to spend less time for ourselves & our family knowing it will require more patience, humility, and obedience? Do we still want to be covenanted? Do we really want to observe and do what it takes to be a disciple of Christ as a covenanted member of the BLD Community?

We learned that discipleship is not easy. It requires being more tolerant and resilient to the responsibilities that will be handed to us. We do not know if God has spoken to us, but the scripture of 2 Tim 3:14 comes to mind, *"Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you've learned it"*. He wants us to remain faithful, to believe and to obey Him because He is whom we learn from. He knows our problems, our fears, our anxieties, our needs and prayers. He knows that sometimes we question Him because our prayers are not answered, our needs not fulfilled. That weekend was very inspiring and fruitful. We believe in God's own way of sending a message. We felt His presence and He made it known to us to remain faithful.

It is still several months of preparation for covenanting. For all the aspirants, 19 of us, there are more steps to take and a lot of self examination to go through. In Lk 9:23, *"Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'*" This is what it takes to become a disciple of Christ. However, the bigger question is, are we willing to deny ourselves and carry our crosses for Christ? As of that Sunday of the retreat, if asked to become covenanted disciples, the answer is yes. It will now all depend on the discipling process that we are to go through. When the invitation comes, we will be at peace and ready to acknowledge His call.

MARK 10 Dress Up Parade for Lesson on Saints.

In celebration of “All Saints Day”, the **Mark 10 Ministry** held their first of what will be an annual “*Parade of Saints*” at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Valley last Friday, October 26, right after the BLD – Phoenix Praise & Worship.

The children learned about the church’s saints, how they became saints and what made each one special.

Members of the community were all excited and delighted to see them, as they approached the altar one by one in their beautiful costume.

“It is very sweet to watch”, while their pictures are taken.

They (the children) said that they will look forward to this each year, and plan ahead early on the saint they want to be for the next year.

“All Saints laid the foundation for our children about ideals and what it means to be a good person.”



Saints
in
the
Making...

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Jonathan Lureñana (ME 1)
- 3 - Thelma Alata (ME 6)
- 4 - Gladdine Bautista (ME 2)
- 4 - Maria David (ME 5)
- 8 - Jason Felipe (YE 1)
- 8 - Janice Kodumal (YE 1)
- 13 - Milrose Kodumal (ME 5 Newark)
- 14 - Ben Felipe (ME 1)
- 14 - Joseph Kodumal (ME 5 Newark)
- 16 - Lee Junia (ME 2)
- 19 - Nikka De Jesus (YE 1)
- 23 - Arlene Junia (ME 2)
- 24 - Evan Pangilinan (ME 5)
- 30 - Andre' Bautista (YE 1)

ANNIVERSARIES

-none on record-

Nov 25 - Filipino Sunday Mass at 5 pm
 at Our Lady of the Valley
 (Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

Reflections *continued from page 1...* We are now new creations in Christ, our King. Our focus should be our spiritual life now and in the life to come. Let us follow the exhortation of St. Paul: **“If then 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. For you have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory.”** (Col 3: 1-4). The Promise for this week is: *“...but those who are deemed worthy to attain the coming of age and to the resurrection of the dead...are like angels; they are the children of God.”* (Lk 20:35 – 36)

The Theme of the third week is: **Christ is King of our lives when we are ready to face persecution and endure sufferings for Him (Perseverance).** As servants of the King in this country, we are blessed that we can openly worship and proclaim that we are Catholic Christians, unlike in other countries, where Christians often face persecution and even death when they proclaim Jesus as their King. Here, the persecution comes mainly from the jeers and mockery of friends, employers, and relatives who are unable to understand why we have changed our former way of life, why we no longer tolerate graft and corruption; why we have forsaken the attractions of the world – honor, prestige, the life of empty show, and why we are more forgiving and more generous in sharing our resources with the less fortunate.

In community life, our challenges comprise mainly in adapting the norms, values, the culture of the community, in attending the weekly community activities, in having the humility to accept our own and fellow members’ weaknesses; in avoiding unsuitable television shows and movies; in witnessing at encounter programs, and serving the poor our midst. But when people see the joy, the peace that we radiate in serving our King, someday they too, may be led to explore for themselves the source of our joy and peace, and say: **“Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”** (Zech 8:23). The Promise for this week is: *“You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”* (Luke 21: 17-19).

The theme for the fourth week is: **Christ is King of our lives when we profess His triumph on the cross (Witnessing).** St. Paul reminds us to give thanks to the Father for having made us fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1: 12- 14).

As servants of our King, Jesus Christ, we take up His yoke, which is easy, and His burden is light. (Mt 11:29). In turn, Jesus helps us to carry our yoke – the difficulties we face in our daily lives – the need to work for a living and provide the needs of our family, secure Christian education for our children, and live honest, simple, contented lives amidst so much materialism, inequality, and injustice. As we joyfully carry our daily cross with expectant faith, we can say that **“we have been crucified with Christ, yet we live, no longer we, but Christ lives in us.”** (Gal 2:20) With Christ in us, we can attest that, **“God is faithful for He will not let us be tried beyond our strength; but with the trial He will provide a way out, so that we will be able to bear it.”** (1Cor 10:13). We also have that hope in eternal glory (Col.1:27). The Promise for this week is: *“Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”* (Luke 23:43)

During this whole month of November, let us reflect upon and examine ourselves, if we have indeed enthroned Jesus Christ as the Lord and King of our lives – worthy to be obeyed, praised, worshipped, and proclaimed to others, day in and day out, to the end of our days.

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. 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.
- ◆ **Computer Workshop** on Oct. 27th and 28th Saturday & For those who have completed the Safety Environment Training for Ministries, please submit your completion Information/details to Secretariat.

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.

ALL SAINTS DAY - As Catholics, we name our children after Saints. We bring them to be baptized in Catholic Churches that are often named for Saints. We honor them by veneration of their relics. We wear holy medals with their images and often the petition, "Pray for us." Our homes are filled with holy cards, statues and paintings of the Saints. We turn to them for assistance, offering novenas. We profess our belief in the Communion of Saints when we recite the Creed. Among all the Saints to whom we offer devotion, Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, claims the most honored place.

Through the centuries, the Church has honored the Saints by naming many in the Eucharistic prayer and by celebrating their individual Feast Day, although there are simply too many of these holy souls to honor each individually. On **November 1**, the Catholic Church gives us a little help with **The Feast of All Saints** gives honor to each of them and all as a whole.

While Halloween glorifies elements of death, the Feast of All Saints emphasizes that with Christ who triumphed over death as the head of the Church, all members of the Church, whether living or dead, are connected in life. On this day, we celebrate the Church triumphant - those who have gained entry into heaven.

ALL SOULS DAY - Along with the Feast of All Saints developed the Feast of All Souls. The Church has consistently encouraged the offering of prayers and Mass for the souls of the faithful departed in Purgatory. At the time of their death, these souls are not perfectly cleansed of venial sin or have not atoned for past transgressions, and thereby are deprived of the Beatific Vision. The faithful on earth can assist these souls in Purgatory in attaining the Beatific Vision through their prayers, good works and the offering of Mass.



Marriage Encounter #7

November 9-11, 2007

Living Water Retreat Center, Cornville AZ

Still accepting applications

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of October 2007

Receipts	\$ 2,190.00
Disbursements	\$ 1,689.67
Surplus (Deficits)	\$ 500.33

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

Featured Saint of the Month:

St. Martin de Porres



St. Martin de Porres was born at Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father was a Spanish gentleman and his mother a coloured freed-woman from Panama. At fifteen, he became a lay brother at the Dominican Friary at Lima and spent his whole life there-as a barber, farm laborer, almoner, and infirmarian

among other things. Martin had a great desire to go off to some foreign mission and thus earn the palm of martyrdom. However, since this was not possible, he made a martyr out of his body, devoting himself to ceaseless and severe penances. In turn, God endowed him with many graces and wondrous gifts, such as, aerial flights and bilocation.

St. Martin's love was all-embracing, shown equally to humans and to animals, including vermin, and he maintained a cats and dogs hospital at his sister's house. He also possessed spiritual wisdom, demonstrated in his solving his sister's marriage problems, raising a dowry for his niece inside of three day's time, and resolving theological problems for the learned of his Order and for bishops. A close friend of St. Rose of Lima, this saintly man died on November 3, 1639 and was canonized on May 6, 1962. His feast day is November 3.