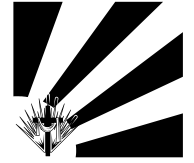




BLD PHOENIX

# VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 11

Ordinary Time Year C

November 2010

## Month of November

**WORD:** *Eternal life belongs to those who believe in the God of the living.*

### READINGS

Nov 7 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14  
Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15  
2 Thes 2:16-3:5  
Lk 20:27-38

Nov 14 Mal 3:19-20  
Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9  
2 Thes 3:7-12  
Lk 21:5-19

Nov 21 2 Sm 5:1-3  
Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5  
Col 1:12-20  
Lk 23:35-43

Nov 28 1st Sunday of Advent: Cycle A  
Is 2:1-5  
Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Rom 13:11-14  
Mt 24:37-44

## MONTHLY COUNSELS

### November 7: 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Suffering)

**Theme:** We believe in the God of the living when we are able to transcend our sufferings.

**Promise:** "The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one." (2 Thes 3:3)

**Reflection:** In the Gospel, the Sadducees present Jesus a ridiculous, make believe story designed to embarrass and trap him. "Whose wife will she be?" they asked Jesus, this widow of seven brothers after each one died before her. How clever it seemed for the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection to invent the absurd problem of the 'eternal husband' in the afterlife. Jesus chides them for not knowing that human relationships are transcended in the afterlife by God's power and that there is life after death. The patriarchs who died long ago in relation to God are alive as God is **not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him, all are alive.** Jesus teaches us some otherwise unknowable things in the afterlife that are beyond us, such as that we shall transcend the need for weddings, families, children, deaths and burials. Where there is immortality and perpetual continuity, there is not any need for them. Our state of future blessedness would so eclipse every joy and pleasure we have known in this world and we shall be so taken that we need no other joy. Our notions of the hereafter are based on how we shortsightedly perceive our world. Here on earth God turns right side up our misconceptions. He reveals to us the truth inside the law, the spirit of the law that is his love and mercy, even as we manipulate the words of his law. God prefers charity without rules and mercy without limits over inflexible, rigid lawfulness. Our God is the God of the living who desires giving life over dealing death, who desires mercy not sacrifice. He gives us **everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace** so that we are able to transcend our sufferings because **the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever.** In the afterlife, to us his children, he shall grant the worthiness that was obtained by the redemptive death of his Son. To God each one of us shall say, "Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full."

**Prayer:** Dear God of the living, it is from heaven that we receive our sufferings on this earth. May we profit from the sufferings that come across our lives. Amen.

**Order:** "Direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ." (2 Thes 3: 5)

**Direction:** Let us all be prayerful. Let us commend others to God before ourselves. Let us be mindful of our every word and our every deed. To serve God is to serve his people.

### November 14: 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Perseverance)

**Theme:** We believe in the God of the living when we live lives of patient endurance.

**Promise:** "For you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays." (Mal 3:20)

**Reflection:** "There will not be left one stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Everything in the world will come to an end. Indeed nothing on earth is permanent. All vanity will come to ruin. "Teacher, when will this happen?" Can we know? Is it for us to know? Or is our concern for the answer better spent in preparing our souls for when these things shall be?

*Continued next page...*

Happy  
Thanksgiving!

-from BLD Phoenix

BLD Phoenix

### CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010

Queen of Peace Madonna Hall  
141N Macdonald, Mesa, AZ, 85201  
Dec 11, 2010 5:00 PM - 12 MN  
Eucharistic Celebration prior to Party  
\$10.00/head Formal Attire  
Please contact ME 8 for details.

### THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of October 2010	
Receipts	\$2,591.30
Disbursements	\$ 995.35
Surplus (Deficit)	\$1,635.95

Website: [www.BLDPhoenix.com](http://www.BLDPhoenix.com) Group E-mail:  
[BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com](mailto:BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com)

**Counsels continued from page 1..."See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he.' And 'The time has come.' Do not follow them."** God's chosen ones, we who seek most to know these things are in greatest danger. If we seek God, we must seek him in his terms. If we seek freedom and other things in ways or terms that are not of Christ our quest is doomed to fail. We also call God's wrath on ourselves. Jesus assures us there will be wars, natural catastrophes and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky. **"Do not be terrified."** Trust, persevere, bear up to what is yet to come. Fear not. Worry not. Neither fear nor worry can change these things. Accept them and believe **for such things must happen first.** Maintain your serenity and patience the only way by which we can keep our peace and take possession of God's promise. **"Before all this happens however, they will seize and persecute you."** This explains the necessity of suffering for his name's sake that St. Paul and the other saints and martyrs already know too well. **"By your perseverance you will secure your lives."**

**Prayer:** Jesus, my Lord and my savior, set my heart on fire to love you as I ought. Help me to live a life of endurance that trusts the sun of justice with your healing rays. Amen.

**Order:** **"See that you not be deceived for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them."** (Lk 21: 8)

**Direction:** Seek the wisdom of the Lord to see what is of God. Serve without seeking to be recognized. Persevere by working diligently, willingly and quietly.

#### **November 21: The Solemnity of Christ the King (Faith)**

**Theme:** We believe in the God of the living when we acknowledge the kingship of Christ.

**Promise:** **"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."** (Lk 23:43)

**Reflection:** **"Today you will be with me in Paradise."** From the fires of hell a sinner is snatched by the hand of God, at the last minute. The good thief who stole paradise as he hangs on the cross waiting for death is a sterling example if a solitary one of God's saving love in the direst of circumstances. For sure, there is eternal hope and there too is an eternal spring in God's everlasting garden of virtues but our lives are best served by an early repentance and not depend on a late one. Though it is God's initiative grace that is the impelling and abiding power both the first and the last that provides us the means of salvation, we must from our earliest efforts cooperate with the Lord's design and indeed even to the last of our breath. On Calvary, one of the two criminals hanging there on either side of Jesus, rebukes the other who reviled Jesus, **"Have you no fear of God?"** He humbly acknowledges that he has been condemned and sentenced justly for his crimes. Lastly, convinced and convicted, the dying thief, ultimately a man with sense and honor asks Christ who is dying with him, **"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."** With such a plaintive cry, Christ the King delivers him from the power of darkness.

**Prayer:** O Christ, my savior and king, you shed your blood for an unprofitable servant like me. I thank you for being the ruler in the kingdom that is within me. Help me reflect your kingship in me through prayer, and love and service. Amen.

**Order:** **"You shall shepherd my people."** (2 Sm 5: 2b)

*Continued next column...*

**Direction:** To shepherd others and ourselves is to acknowledge that Jesus is Christ the King. Trust that what we do here on earth will be rewarded in heaven.

#### **Start of New Liturgical Year: Cycle A**

#### **November 28: 1st Sunday of Advent (Discipline)**

**Theme:** Spiritual preparedness is to conduct ourselves with propriety.

**Promise:** **"Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain...he may instruct in his ways, and we may walk in his paths."**

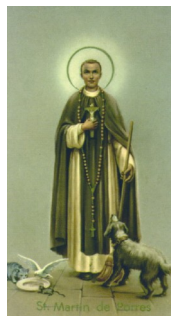
(Isa 2: 3)

**Reflection:** It is safe to assume that there are many Christians who look forward to the celebration of the Eucharist every Sunday. It may be a stretch to say they are like Isaiah who saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem many peoples come and say, **"Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths."** But surely, there are enough Christians every Sunday who flock to church even though they may not know they are singing in their hearts with the psalmist, **"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."** With all of these people we **put on the Lord Jesus Christ** when we go to church though in simple every day habit we just put on a clean shirt or sometimes we say we put on our Sunday best. When we learn however that it is the first Sunday of Advent, we think of Jesus coming, we envision Mary pregnant with the Christ Child and the Eucharistic celebration takes on a different fervor. Advent so full of life and promise is welcomed with a different eagerness. So taken we are with that air of expectancy, that sometimes we may forget the subtle warning in the words of the Gospel, **"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."** But this time around, we are all ears. **"In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage...They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."** This time we know the very hour. **It is the hour now for us to wake up from sleep.** We are prepared for the Lord's coming, or if we are not, we must have the discipline to get ready. In the discipline of expectancy, we know the hour that the Son of Man will come. The Christ Child's birth is upon us.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, the day is at hand. I am awake and prepared and ready for your coming. Help me beat my sword of discontent and lack of peace into a plowshare to prepare the soil of my life for seeding. I raise no sword against another. I raise my arms in love. I raise my hands in prayer. Amen.

**Order:** **"Therefore, stay awake."** (Mt 24: 42a)

**Direction:** Be vigilant and be prepared for the coming of the Lord, Frequent the Sacraments. Always strive to be in a state of grace.-RSC



*"Compassion is preferable to cleanliness. Reflect that with a little soap I can easily clean my bed covers, but even with a torrent of tears I would never wash from my soul the stain that my harshness toward the unfortunate would create."*

-St. Martin De Porres  
Feastday November 3

## Glittering Delights

There never was a golden world, and I suppose, there never will be. But every now and then we get a glimpse of that world, not lumps or loads of it, but glittering delights. During my single blessedness, I have had several 'encounters' like this Marriage Encounter Weekend. The defining difference is that at this encounter I was no longer alone. Here are some of the glittering delights I had gleaned from the marriage encounter. Before the marriage encounter, when I was offended or upset, I became tongue-tied immediately. Even if my spouse talked to me, I'd remain silent and could go on forever without talking. Of course, he would not like this silent treatment but I did this because I did not want to say anything that I might regret later. The marriage encounter made me realize that since we had invited Christ in our marriage, we are a team, and so we have but one goal. I am certain that we will accomplish that goal because if God is with us, who could be against us? So I had thrown my mask of silence away. Marriage encounter taught me that forgiveness is the acid test of love. I do get angry and annoyed easily and that makes everything Ted does very personal. But now, I just remind myself how lucky I am and therefore I could ignore little annoyances and trivial comments and not let them get the better of me. Who could have thought that Ted and I would meet again after 50 long years of separation? But God has the perfect plan for us. He knows that in our old age, we would need someone to take care of us and God got us to get together again. Ted is a blessing in my old age. God is really a good God. Glory, honor and praise to him!

The encounter made me more verbal about my feelings. Ted and I are frank to each other and our open communication helps our relationship. We are one as evidenced by the letters we wrote each other during the encounter. We are living proof of the love songs, *Love Is Lovelier the Second Time Around* and *Love Is a Many Splendored Thing*. Why not, when God is love? I thank God that I invited Ted to the marriage encounter. I know it made him more understanding and more accepting of my idiosyncrasies. It has also made him get to use his sense of humor when he thinks that things don't go my way. I also especially thank God for the BLD Phoenix community that has offered so much support, tenderness, care, love and prayers. Indeed when blessing comes it pours like rain. The glittering delights of God's blessings are a treasure to share with all. -PB

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## YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR #4

Youth in the Life in Spirit Seminar, what is it all about? What can we expect on it? Does it really help? These are just some of the questions that every candidate has before the seminar. Father Dave said he was a product of YLSS but he was still afraid because it is his first time to hold the YLSS as a spiritual advisor. The candidates got mixed reactions – fear, doubt, and negativity before the start of the YLSS.

There were 13 young brave candidates. They were there to face their fears, doubt and negativity. Father Dave's clear explanation of the teachings, the preparations made by the shepherds, and the inspiring stories told by the sharers tremendously helped and inspired these curious candidates. The powerful non-stop prayers by the auxies and volunteers in the vigil room for the weekend paved the way for the candidates to open up and be receptive. It was a wonderful weekend that was obviously blessed and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Each candidate shared their exemplary experience during the baptism of the Holy Spirit that is inexplicable even by a logical mind. Most of the people who underwent the Life in Spirit seminar could attest to this great change in their lives but each one should continue to pray daily, read bible scriptures, go to church, and actively participate in the religious community in order to grow the faith and develop the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's a start of a great relationship with Jesus that we don't want to end.

Afraid? Doubting? Opposed? --- Nah! Not anyone of these was noticeable after the baptism. Loads were relieved and the pain healed. Everybody was smiling and feeling the joy and excitement. At this point Father Dave brought a BLD marker and told the candidates to keep the Spirit burning and the way to do this and help each one sustain the life changing experience is to head in this direction,



Come and be with us in every BLD Praise and Worship!

## COMMUNITY DAY 2010

Last October 23, the BLD community had its annual Fall Family day at the Pacana Park in Maricopa Az. It was a fun filled day as the community came together to enjoy an afternoon of games with the different apostolates. With a little man-made lake stocked with fish, a basketball court, play area for kids and lots of open space, adults and kids alike had a grand time playing parlor games and fishing.

Special mention to the Solo Parents for being "game" at every turn.. It was amazing to see how competitive they were. From a Sexy Walk Race, Hip-Hip Hooray, Ilong-Ilong game and Being Chased around the circle by Jonathan, the adults were all sport not minding making fun of themselves for a grand prize of \$1,000 (less two zeroes of course). But then again, it's not about the prize but about the company of being able to spend time with our brothers and sisters. Special mention goes to Cecille Maglalang for pretty much joining every game. While falling short of a victory, she never ran short of determination.

The Community through the DCS also prepared a sumptuous fare for everyone to enjoy with crunchy lechon and lechon kawali with BLD members adding crabs, fish, pancit and all sorts of dessert (the home made hopia was very good!!!) for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to Tito Ross Carballo for cutting up the cheeses to bite sizes and to Jonathan for acting as game master.

While we endeavor to praise the Lord in prayer every Friday, we also continue to praise and worship him through community events where we are able to show our brethren a little bit of fun all within the context of loving our Lord.

Thanks to ME 8 for scouting the venue and organizing the event for the community. See you at next year's community day.

**!!! TEACHING MINISTRY UPDATE !!!**

**November 19** after Praise & Worship  
Topic: **Youth Introduction to Service**

**November 26** after Praise & Worship  
Topic: **Matrimony**  
Attendance: **EVERYONE** is invited, youth, adults, visitors.  
Speaker: Lorane Ward

**December 4 at 10am-5pm**  
Alba Residence  
**Mock Teaching for ALL Teachers Development Program Graduates**  
**PLEASE PREPARE ALL FINAL TEACHING MODULES**

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
2 - Jonathan Lureñana	16 - Lee Junia
2 - Richard Bauer	19 - Nikka De Jesus
3 - Thelma Alata	23 - Arlene Junia
4 - Gladdine Bautista	24 - Evan Pangilinan
6 - Mei Ann Gregorio	30 - Andre' Bautista
8 - Janice Kodumal	30 - Willie Gregorio
13 - Milrose Kodumal	30 - Andy Sabado
14 - Joseph Kodumal	
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
14 - Jack & Pure Wallman	
27 - Andy & Fe Sabado	

