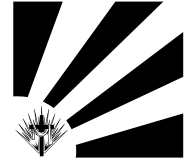




VALLEY OF THE SON



Month of October

WORD: *We are near the Kingdom of God when we love the Lord with all our being.*

Nov 05: Dt 6:2-6
Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51
Heb 7:23-28
Mk 12:28b-34

Nov 12: 1 Kgs 17:10-16
Ps 146:8-10
Heb 9:24-28
Mk 12:38-44

Nov 19: Dn 12:1-3
Ps 16:5, 8-11
Heb 10:11-14, 18
Mk 13:24-32

Nov 26: Dn 7:13-14
Ps 93:1-2, 5
Rev 1:5-8
Jn 18:33b-37

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Be workers in the vineyard of the Lord to bring into the fold the hungry, the homeless, the naked, the imprisoned, for they too "are not far from the Kingdom."*

2. *Strive to reach out to our members who are in need of medical and housing assistance.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Love me with all that you are and you will join me in My Kingdom.*

2. *The measure of love you give to the least of your brothers is the measure of love you give unto me.*



DCS Monthly Reflections

Week # 1: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (**Pastoral Care**)

Theme: We love the Lord with all our being when we love our neighbor as ourselves.

Promise: *"You are not far from the kingdom of God"* (Mk 12:34)

Order: *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all our mind, and with all your strength; and your neighbor as yourself."*

Direction: Follow Jesus, because he is the everlasting royal high priest, he is always able to save those who approach God through Him.

Reflection: The message of "love" threads through all the scriptures this week: Moses told the Israelites to keep God's statutes and commandments: To love God with all their hearts, souls and strength. St. Paul told us that Jesus, as the royal high priest, out of love offered himself once for all the sinners of the world. Jesus remains as High priest, with unending priesthood. He is always able to save those who approach God through Him. Jesus taught all the people to follow Moses' order, and Jesus added that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves also. The Palmist told us that God's love provides us the rock of refuge, the shield, the horn of salvation, and deliverer. Love ties the world together; genuine love between neighbors is the ultimate foundation for peace.

Week #2: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (**Sacrificial Giving**)

Theme: We love the Lord with all our being when we give the little we have, trusting in God's provision.

Promise: *"The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry."* (Ps 146:7)

Order: Give with a generous heart.

Direction: Have faith: that our Lord will provide, when we provide for the needy in the community.

Reflections: *"Do not be afraid."* An assurance given to a widow with a child by God through Elijah in the first reading fearing that she had but one last meal she could make of the flour on her jar. In the gospel, Jesus recognizes the sacrifice, love and generosity of a poor woman giving all that she had as a offering to the Lord. As what the two women had done in the readings, they gave even what little they had in the name of God and in the same manner, we are invited to generously share our time, treasures and talents in the service and glory of our Lord. As Elijah assures the woman, "do not be afraid", so too should we not fear what tomorrow brings, what we eat or what we drink, for truly God will take care of the needs of those who labor and serve him.

Continued next page...

Reflections continued from 1st page...

Week #3: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Accountability)

Theme: We love the Lord with all our being when we are prepared to stand before the Son of Man.

Promise: *"You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever."* (Ps 16:11)

Order: I set the Lord ever before me.

Direction: Remain focused on the Lord and continue our service to Him thru our community as He stands fast by our side. With Him on our side we have the strength and confidence needed for a growing community.

Reflection: As a growing community, we have gone thru many trials and even now we sometimes doubt ourselves - in the ways we govern or lead, in interpreting our rules or even in some liturgical procedures. It sometimes creates doubts as to what we are doing, or the sincerity involved. Daniel 12 and the Psalm Readings reminds me of what steadfastness of faith should be.

Week #4: The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Faith)

Theme: We love the Lord with all our being when we proclaim Jesus as King of our lives.

Promise: *"His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away; his kingship shall not be destroyed."* (Dn 7:14b)

Order: Testify to the Truth.

Direction: Do not yield to the pressure for falsehood when we are to testify to the truth.

Reflection: "It may seem hard to reconcile ourselves to the theme of the feast of Christ the King. However, Jesus' confession before Pilate --"My kingdom is not from this world" (John 18:36)--reminds us that his kingship cannot be compared to any era of human society. It is wholly unique.

"Throughout his ministry, Jesus shunned the title of king. He told his disciples not to speak of his true identity and commanded the demons not to reveal his authority. He waited until the very end, when it seemed too late for anyone to believe him, to announce: "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world." (John 18:37).

"Just as Jesus' love for us is absolute, so his claims upon us are absolute. He is our king, but we must decide to enthrone him over our lives. The supreme act of true individuality is to give oneself to another freely, as when a bride and groom freely forsake all others. Likewise, Jesus never commands our allegiance; he waits for us to surrender ourselves to his reign over us.

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Pope Benedict's First Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* ("God is Love")

1 Jn 4:16
(4th Series of 5)

"Keeping A Balance"

We live out Jesus' love as we perform the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy. On one level, they are simple: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and imprisoned, clothing the naked, teaching the ignorant. But *because human beings aren't perfect, and human life is complex, there's always a risk of confusing our own flawed motivations with authentic love.* How can we stay centered in Christ?

- ◆ *Understand what we can and can't do. We can't solve all the world's problems, but we can share the love of Jesus with this person here and now.*
- ◆ Let Jesus be our guide, not politics or ideologies.
- ◆ Remember that Jesus is present in those moments of service, and is working in the hearts of those in need, in His own time. Sometimes we might speak of faith in Jesus directly; sometimes we might just let our actions and presence do the speaking.
- ◆ Imitate Jesus' humility. As he humbled himself and joined His life with ours without judgment, so do we with those Jesus calls us to love.
- ◆ Make prayer the starting point of all we do. Professionalism and competence are important, but what makes Christian charity different is our awareness of the loving presence of Jesus and guidance of the Spirit.

Every act that helps is a good act, but Jesus' call to His disciples is about more than just improving people's lives. It is about encountering others in love and compassion just as He did. That's what makes Christian charity unique and always necessary in every age and every political and economic system. A donation can pay a medical bill; only loving presence can ease the pain of a suffering soul.

"Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trials, persevere in prayer."

-Romans 12:9-12



Next Issue: Love Is...



Catholic Thanksgiving

Let's face it, though: while these long-established traditions are enjoyable family events, there's nothing specifically Catholic about the Thanksgiving holiday. The idea of *thanksgiving*, however, is a very Catholic tradition indeed. Many Catholics find it is especially appropriate and meaningful to focus on the uniquely Catholic meaning of thanksgiving.

Christianity and Judaism are unique among all religions in their emphasis on thanksgiving. We believe in a God Who has truly entered into human history. We give Him thanks for His mighty deeds in the Eucharist especially. In each Eucharistic thanksgiving we give thanks not just for natural blessings, but for the fact that God supernaturally enters our lives.

Catholic parents can emphasize the Eucharistic meaning of thanksgiving in their families by adding their own uniquely Catholic touches to Thanksgiving holiday traditions. Even in traditional Thanksgiving celebration we are called to thank a Creator for our natural gifts and blessings. At Thanksgiving dinner, family members can read scripture together (i.e. Psalm of thanksgiving) and then take turns sharing the things for which they are most thankful.

Another traditional element of Thanksgiving that lends itself easily to a Eucharistic focus is the gathering of friends and family. In particular, the communal element of the Eucharist as it is comparable to a family gathering and a shared meal. "It is especially important that we realize Christ's real presence in other people. At Mass, we are the body of Christ and all the angels and saints are present. When we celebrate the Eucharist together it is meant to bring us into deeper communion with the whole Church. When we receive communion, we make a public statement of unity." Catholic families can most effectively highlight the true meaning of thanksgiving by attending Mass together as a family on Thanksgiving Day.

Families can underscore community-building in their Thanksgiving Day observances by performing service to the poor prior to attending family celebrations or by inviting outsiders to share in their Thanksgiving meal. "It helps to build a sense of community within the Church and gives each one contact with those who are living out their vocations in the Church."

The mostly secular holiday of Thanksgiving presents Catholic families with a unique opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the gift of the Eucharist. "*One meaning of Eucharist is to 'give thanks' so when this special day of 'Thanksgiving' comes around, suddenly without even trying, we start counting all the things we are thankful for.*" Our families should recognize that we celebrate Thanksgiving every Sunday. We also have the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving every day as Catholics. *And what is it we are thankful for? It is the Lord Himself. Almighty God gave Himself to be our ransom from sin. What greater gift is there than salvation?"*

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of October 2006

<i>Receipts</i>	\$ 3,887.25
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 1,611.86
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$ 2,275.39

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

Thank you for your generosity!

MONTHLY TEACHINGS

Nov 12 Encounter with Jesus Part I

This is open to ALL, especially the LSS#4 graduates.
(And those that need catch-up sessions for aspirancy.)

All Saints Day

We celebrate a solemnity this month-the feast of All Saints. It is, in a sense, a feast day for each one of us. Every one of us is considered to be a saint. We are called to be saints by our baptism, by a deep inner longing within each of us that longs to accomplish the destiny God has given us. One of the things we can glean from the feast of All Saints is a clearer understanding of what a saint really is. If we go back to the early Church, we find that the word "saint" was synonymous with the word "martyr," someone who gave his or her life for the Church. As time went on, the word "saint" encompassed all those who were under the guidance of the Spirit, and revealed that this Spirit had major impact on their lives. They manifested goodness, and they effected change in others. In some cases, they performed miracles. We have a system in the Church that recognizes saints by canonizing them; these are the famous ones. I think it's certainly easy to understand that most of us will not be in the category of famous, canonized saints. But that doesn't mean we aren't part of this great company of saints.

When we look at the teaching of Christ, it becomes very clear that there is something much more mysterious than following a list of things we should or should not do. It seems that Jesus is talking about the miracle of transformation. We die to a self-willing and open our arms, hearts, and minds to this indwelling power of Spirit. The "death" that a saint experiences is the death to our own egocentric way of living and an openness to living with the Spirit. We trust and believe that the Spirit is real and vital, and that it changes the direction of our lives so that we can focus on what is really important. The religious leaders of Jesus' time criticized and condemned him, and yet, Jesus had the fortitude to withstand all of the criticism and the judgment from those who were claiming to judge in the name of God. Jesus survived by doing what he was called to do, knowing somehow that there was a great Spirit dwelling within him.

As children of God, our inheritance is this Spirit dwelling within us. That's the heart of what it means to be a saint—to know that we are not dealing with life on our own, but rather, that we are marked with this gift of the Spirit. "Salvation is from God." Salvation is not from us. It doesn't come from our own strength. Somehow, it comes because God decided to dwell within us. This is God's gift to us: "We have been washed in the blood of the Lamb." Mostly, the blood of Christ is used in images of covenant—the covenant between God and us. At the heart of this covenant, sealed with Christ's blood, is the promise that God will be with us always.

The great challenge of sainthood has everything to do with working toward a disposition of faith. Faith is that mysterious place where we submit, opening ourselves to this marvelous God of ours who longs to be a servant. God longs to do something for us, while at the same time doing something for the world through us. It's amazing how God keeps us in the dark; that's why we define our spiritual life as faith. Faith is believing in the things that we can't see or prove or touch. Sometimes this whole mysterious plan God has for us, our destiny, is something we never completely figure out in this world.

The challenge is to be open to mystery, to remember that all of us are invited to be saints. We are not saints on our own, but we are connected to a great company. All of us are touched by the same Spirit that unifies us. All of us are willing to give ourselves over to this plan. One day, because we are God's children, we will see and fully understand it. †

Regular Monthly Schedule

2nd, 4th & 5th Fridays -7:30 PM:

Corporate Praise & Worship (Rosary at 7 PM)

***There will not be Praise & Worship on Nov. 24
in observance of Thanksgiving***

3rd Fridays-7:30 PM:

Corporate Praise & Worship-Youth: (Rosary at 7 PM)

Every 1st Friday-7:30 PM:

Eucharistic Celebration

Eucharistic Adoration/Confession (6 PM)

Community Calendar/Events

Nov 11 Masquerade Ball-ME 5 Fund Raising for ME 6

Nov 26 Filipino Community Sunday Mass at OLV

(Sponsored by BLD-every last Sunday)

Dec 9 BLD Christmas Party (Venue TBA)

Reunions

Dec 2 M.E. 5 Reunion (Venue TBA)

Church Calendar

Nov 1 All Saints Day-Holy Day of Obligation*

Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day
of Obligation*

*please check your local parish for Mass Times

Birthdays

- 2 - Jonathan Lureña (ME 1)
- 2 - Mae Tan (SPE 1)
- 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 recorded for November

Reflections continued from page 2...

In return, he promises eternal life with the Father and the fruits of the Spirit in those who deepen their unity with him."

Lord Jesus, remove all the obstacles to your reign within us. Let us be your servant. Transform us into a witness to your sovereign power and your unshakable love. AMEN. †

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Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry

Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update 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

IDLC will have it's monthly meeting on November 5 instead of Nov 3. This will be at 1 pm to be held in OLV. Room assignment to be announced. To all DCS and Ministry Heads (and all those involved in handling minors) please take the Safety Environment Training offered by local parishes. You may check the Diocese website for training schedule:

<http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>

Married Life Apostolate (MLA)

M.E. #6 is fast approaching. It is scheduled on Feb. 2-4, 2007 at the Franciscan Renewal Retreat Center. All couples sacramentally married are welcome to attend. Application Letters and Brochures for the MEW are available at the Registration Area every Friday. These are also available from MLA Coordinators Joseph & Milrose Kodumal, and also from Evan & Joie Pangilinan and from the website for download. The "Masquerade Ball" is a fund-raising activity for M.E. 6 headed by sponsoring class M.E. 5. This will be held on Nov. 11, 2006 at 6 PM at the ISLANDS in Gilbert, AZ. The Solicitation Letter for the Souvenir Program for the "Masquerade Ball" is also available from MLA and the website.

Secretariat Ministry

Personal data forms are already available at the Registration Area (and the website). This is for all encountered members/LSS graduates to update the community database. All forms are to be turned in by the end of November to Secretariat. *Evan & Joie Pangilinan is BLD Phoenix' newly appointed Secretariat Ministry Coordinators.*

Service Ministry

Caroling practice schedule will start on Nov. 3 after Mass. Caroling schedule is as follows: **Dec. 2 & 3; Dec. 10; Dec. 16 & 17.** Please see Denny & Nina Custodio/Manny & May Siongco for East/West Valley Groupings.

Word Ministry

OLV will have its Ministry Fair on Nov. 11 & 12. BLD will have a table with community information and giveaways. Different Ministry tables open after the 4 PM Mass on Nov. 11; after the 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 5 PM Masses on Nov. 12. There will be assigned members to man the BLD table on specific times. EVERYONE is welcome to participate manning the tables.

