



Month of October

WORD: Commitment to the community is faithfulness to Christ.

READINGS

- October 4 Gn 2:18-24, Ps 128:1-6, Heb 2:9-11, Mk 10:2-16
October 11 Wis 7:7-11, Ps 90:12-17, Heb 4:12-13, Mk 10:17-30
October 18 Is 53:10-11, Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22, Heb 4:14-16, Mk 10:35-45
October 25 Jer 31:7-9, Ps 126:1-6, Heb 5:1-6, Mk 10:46-52

MONTHLY COUNSELS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Fidelity)

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we defend the sacredness of our vocation.

Promise: Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork, blessed shall you be, and favored. (Ps 128: 1-2)

Reflection: God's plan is masterfully and divinely crafted by him for each one of us. Not all are called to a married life. Some are called to sacred celibacy. All however are called to reveal Christ's love for us. That is our vocation. Drawn into oneness with Jesus, we mirror his inseparable unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. So beautifully described by Jesus is conjugal love between a man and his wife, when he said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. The same imagery is not absent in the midst of those who have chosen single blessedness. Their marital vow is with Christ. Both what God has joined together in the marriage of a man to a woman and the religious to his sacred calling, no human being must separate. To loneliness, there is no calling. That is why God said, It is not good for man to be alone. The task of every man, woman and child is to remain faithful to Christ. As his creatures, he made us a suitable partner for himself. For a little while, he was made a little lower than the angels, that he may suffer for us and die for us who from the beginning because of the hardness of our hearts, could not enter the kingdom of God without the price of his blood. God's fidelity to us whom he wishes reconciled to him is the framework of our fidelity. To be blessed by Jesus, to be favored by him and to be brought back home to the Father with him, Accept the kingdom of God like a child.

Prayer: Jesus, like a child I come to you. With you, in you and through you, I seek the Father. My family clings in faith to you. Amen.

Order: Accept the kingdom of God like a child. (Mk 10: 15b)

Direction: Be a faithful husband. Be a loving wife. Embrace your children and bless them with the love of Christ.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Detachment)

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we renounce our worldliness and follow His word.

Promise: All things are possible with God. (Mk 10: 27b) Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. (Ps 90:12)

Reflection: There is not a human being who is unequipped with an insatiable capacity to love and an equally enormous yearning to be loved and to belong. God created us like that. Yet some of us may be tempted by worldly possessions to sell their birthright like a hungry Esau did for mere gruel. The true lover of Christ must have a set compass and must remain unwilling to barter God's promised heaven for temporary worldly wealth. Left to ourselves, it may not be possible to count on a mere promise of future gain when it is easier to yield to instant gratification. It may not be possible to depend on tomorrow's uncertain prospect when it is easier to cash in on the pleasure of now. For human beings it is impossible but not for God. All things are possible with God.

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Teachers Development Program For the West Coast Districts

As approved by BDL ECSL

Host: BLD Phoenix

Date: November 14 - 15, 2009

Venue: Madonna Hall,

Queen of Peace Church

141 N McDonald St Mesa 85201

By invitation only.

For covenanted members with unique MGT results in prophecy or teaching.

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Youth Life in the Spirit Seminar #4

November 6-8, 2009

Desert Outdoor Center 41402 N. 87th Ave, Peoria, AZ 85383

Open especially to all recent YE graduates. Please stand by for more details!

Website: www.BLDPhoenix.com

Group E-mail: BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com

Counsels continued from page 1...

We are asked to be faithful to Christ and to renounce our worldliness to follow his word. There is not a human being who can escape the obligation to render an account of his life, to explain how he had spent his gifts and blessings, how he had shared with the poor and less endowed both what he had in excess and what he lacked. There ought not to be fear of that final reckoning but there ought to be a hopeful confidence that we shall finally meet face to face with our generous and forgiving God. Abandon reliance on human power and self sufficiency both of which ultimately come from the Lord. Rely instead on Christ's mercy alone. In that way, we are in the esteemed company of angels and saints and martyrs.

Prayer: Jesus, give us the wisdom to renounce the flesh and the world. Help us to follow your word and to depend on your mercies. Amen.

Order: "Give to the poor...then come follow me." (Mk 10:21b)

Direction: Give alms to the poor. Contribute generously to charity. Tithe willingly. Share of your time and person.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Servanthood)

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we render unselfish service to community.

Promise: "If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his dependents in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him." (Is 53:10)

Reflection: When we bend our knees before God, when we approach God's altar of mercy, we do so with confidence, knowing that he to whom we raise our frustrations had himself been tested by the cruelties and the trials of the world, and had not been found wanting. Even the sons of Zebedee approached the Lord with boldness and their request was bereft of timidity, "Grant that in your glory we may sit at your right and the other at your left." Do not cut down the Lord's generosity to small rations. If we ask for something, mean it and claim it. Jesus will test our heart with questions, like one he posed to James and John, "Can you drink the cup that I drink?" Let us hope that we do not just have the boldness of the Zebedee brothers but also their resolve, "We can." If we ask, the Lord listens, but indeed we must know what we want. If we must possess, if we must receive, we must ask but not ask wrongly or half heartedly. Ultimately, we must also know that the Father's will remains supreme. What is Christ's to give *is for those for whom it has been prepared*. When we approach God's throne we must have that careful balance of boldness and humility. We must have already been schooled in obedience and submission to God's ways and means, and tested in humility. People and circumstances we meet in our life situations are not there by mere coincidence. These persons and events are the ways and means by which the will of the Lord had been or shall yet be accomplished. *To receive mercy and to find grace, we need only approach God's altar and ask.*

Prayer: Jesus, please give us what we need that we may serve you and others. Let all that we ask you be premised on that need to serve you and others. Amen.

Order: "Confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy." (Heb 4: 16a)

Direction: Smile. Serve with cheer. Always seek a way to help someone at every opportunity.

Continued next column...

October Teachings Schedule

Teaching Topics: TBA

For All Encounter and LSS Graduates (Adults)

When: **October 25, 2009** at 12noon to 4PM

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

Please bring you Bible, Notebook and Pen!

"And He gaved some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God." (Ephesians 4:11-14)

Counsels continued from page 2...

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Perseverance)

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we are persistent in our faith.

Promise: "Go your way; your faith has served you." (Mk 10:52)

Reflection: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you."

As children of God, we are heirs of the kingdom of heaven, by virtue of our brotherhood with Christ in his suffering and death. *No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God.* Ignorant and erring children, we are in constant need of assistance. From our hearts hungry for the Father's love, we cry out in the faith of a legitimate son, "I want to see." I want to see, Lord, for so long I had been blind. I did not see beggars ask for alms. I did not see priests err in shepherding their flocks. I did not see leaders of government and industry steal from the people whom they serve. I did not see neighbors. I did not know their names. I did not see my children beg for a hug or a kiss. I did not see empty churches, unvisited tabernacles, unopened Bibles, unused rosary beads, and unlit candles of worship. "Master, I want to see," that I may then shout with joy, exult in your name, proclaim your praises and say, "I had been brought back by God. Now I can see. Rejoice with me." I know too that I would not receive this blessing on my own. I had long prayed and I had long wept, persistent in my faith. May the Lord soon answer and tell me, "Your faith has saved you."

PRAYER: Jesus, in great faith, I gather my children at the foot of your cross. We pray together. Keep us together. Amen.

Order: "Take courage, Jesus is calling you." (Mk 10: 49b)

Direction: Do not be ashamed of working for the Lord. Accept an assignment to a ministry. Volunteer as an "auxie." Attend Friday Praise and Worship. Do not waver. Have faith.

ROSARY SUNDAY 2009

Sunday, October 11th, at the Phoenix Convention Center, 3rdSt. and Washington (SE corner).
Confessions available 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of September 2009

Receipts \$3,631.02

Disbursements \$1,039.67

Surplus (Deficits) \$2,591.35

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

BACK FROM SLIDE ROCK
BLD Phoenix Community Day 2009

To be without a past whatsoever, to be without ties at all, even for a few hours...That may seem like escaping from reality, or hiding or running away. It was none of the



above though it may have looked like that. BLD Phoenix as a family took a retreat, drove over 125 miles to the 5000 ft elevation of Slide Rock Park on Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona for its Community Day, September 12. Up there where there was some rarefied mountain air, it was a respite for all who have had a busy year for the Lord even though we were still anxious with the upcoming Don Moen Concert, the biggest challenge thus far for BLD Phoenix.

The ride alone going up there and back to the valley allowed at least some five or six hours of bonding among those who had traveled together. The problems and the



accumulated burdens of a lifetime get summarized and dismissed.



That is what travel does that bridges one place to another. Crossing across time to one place and back IS an authentic journey. Slide Rock was the chosen a place where God invited us to be and have time seem to us to move slower. Slide Rock is named after the slippery rock bottom of the creek nearby. It did not need us to slide down with the waters to experience the weariness of our souls slide away from us. God's red rock landscape around, the view of mountains and sky, their growth and creatures, our gathering together under one roof, the whiling away of time, the sipping of cold drinks, the sharing of choice foods, the dancing, the music, our playing games that competed us against one another's flabby muscles, decreased instincts and still sharp ingenuities have all drawn us together much closer as a family.



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TYPHOON ONDOY RELIEF

The events of the past few days has been devastating to a lot of our fellow brothers and sisters in the Philippines. Our hearts go for them and we keep them in our prayers as they struggle through their situation. And in accordance to the guidelines of BLD ECSL-MNL, **BLD-PHX will have a second collection passed around every Friday during the month of October** for the relief operation of the flood victims in Manila.

We encourage all our members to find it in their hearts to be generous in sharing our blessings in giving assistance to all those who suffered in this past calamity. For more efficiency and greater impact in our help, we have decided to pool our donations with other BLD communities by remitting to the BLD Foundation Inc., Banco de Oro, Philippines.

Yours In Christ,
Alex & Lina Alba, Management Stewards



The special charm of the outdoors had washed away our spiritual weariness.



We did come back somewhat physically worn out but we are certain that we had the Lord only to ourselves for most of a day. We are certain too that we had made God happy by our display of unity and

playfulness as his children, that we might even plan to go back there again next year for another Community Day if God so wills it. RSC



An Evening With Don Moen

The BLD Phoenix community was just abuzz about the Don Moen pre-concert event on Wednesday October 8. In that space assigned to us by Phoenix First Assembly, one would feel the energy radiated by each one present: getting the dinner tables ready, the buffet table setup, getting the sound equipment working, making sure that media guests' schedules are met and of course, the obvious anticipation of the guest of honor's arrival. "Is he here yet?" "Is that him?" you will hear one or another ask this question...and finally, (drum roll) the guest of honor arrives...looking around and even from self-inspection, the word that comes up is: star-struck! A few got a kiss or a hug from Don Moen then handshakes here and there. Beleaguered fans hoping to get an autograph or strike a pose with an inspirational icon.



The evening was opened with the prayer before meals by Lee Junia, then followed by a few words from Don Moen himself. Don did not seem to mind having his meal interrupted by an interview. When he finally got to sit down and eat, he was just lauding how food and more food came about in front of him. Isn't that just so typical of Filipino hospitality? Talking about more, there truly is more about this man who believes that there is more...



Don Moen first became a Christian at the age of 12. He offered himself to Christ at such a young age. He is gifted to be able to play different kinds of instruments reflecting his musical inclination but no one would probably expect that Don Moen would have aspired to become a pilot and if he were to do something else, he would have been a forest ranger or a campground host. His ministry brought him to a lot of places

and especially including non-Christian countries echoing a voice to evangelize and make Christ known to the world. Throughout his ministry-related travels, he has found solace and inspiration in the Philippines where he reported to have been more than ten times already. Don shared that, "The Philippines is truly blessed...the people do not just have the freedom to worship but are encouraged to worship. The people are hungry for God...hungry to do something for the nation and for God." The conception of quite a few of his songs took place in the Philippines – inspired by the magnificence of Manila Bay's sunset.

The lyrics of a lot of Don Moen's songs are very relatable to a lot of us listeners because most, if not all, songs are personal to him who himself goes through what each one of us endures on a daily basis. A lot of times, we find it hard to express ourselves into prayer, or thoughts and feelings into words but Don accounted that the loss of words (or one may refer to as writer's block only this time it is 'pray-er's block') one day got him somewhere to more than just a prayer – it brought him a song which later on became a CD album's title. His thoughts were along these lines: ~Lord You seem so far away. A million miles or more it feels today. And though I haven't lost my faith, I must confess right now that it's hard for me to pray. But I don't know what to say and I don't know where to start. But as you give the grace with all that's in my heart...I will sing~...).

What seems to bring life to this tour is the song and CD album title, **I Believe There is More** and the inspiration behind it. What then inspired Don Moen to write this song? ~Everything I have done. All that I've said and sung. Lifting Your story giving You glory. That's just the beginning. Father, I know there is more. Power to heal and restore. Miracles wonders blessings unnumbered. Love never-ending...~ Don Moen left Hosanna Integrity Music two years ago. As an executive in that company for 20 years, it was difficult for him to leave but at the same time, he found it hard to have the time to write songs, have a concert and to minister. His decision to leave brought him to founding the Don Moen Company. He shares that in a lot of times in our lives, the Holy Spirit prompts us to "recalculate" – if we happen to make a wrong turn that is exactly what the GPS tells us – to



recalculate, requiring us to do it again, go back and make the correct turn. How true it is to the turns we make in our lives and as we make those Holy Spirit-prompted turns whether now or later, it is granted that we go through healing, spiritual restoration, we experience miracles and the never-ending love of Jesus Christ – it is granted that there truly is more.

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This community effort to bring Christ in somebody's life through a worship concert is a blessing for the community. Through the BLD Phoenix community, it truly was a privilege to meet and greet Don Moen privately let alone do a semi-private dialogue. The unions and reunions brought about by this initial event already give our Lord the victory, honor and glory. Don Moen offered a prayer to close what seemed to be such a brief event and finally called it a night. The night could have gone on and on when Don Moen generously granted the group a taste of what he does best - singing, the touching and inspiring exhortations. Singing along with Don Moen live and who was just within reach was nothing short of wonderful. As we all went our separate ways, Don managed to remind everyone to pray. Everyone may have gone forth with more tasks to carry out, more people to invite to the concert, more souls to bring close to God, but touched, inspired, revived, renewed (and still star-struck!) with the belief that in the Lord, His grace is in abundance and more for always. †



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 - Tessie Marquez | 6 - Chris Korte |
| 17 - Jomel De Jesus | 17 - Eva Tejada |
| 23 - Myra Magnaye | 29 - Rey Conopio |

ANNIVERSARY

- 26 - Rey & Mary Ann Conopio
- 30 - Jonathan & Eunice Lureña
- 30 - Mario & Lucy De Leon