



## Month of October

**WORD:** *We belong to Christ as His disciples when we do righteous deeds in His name.*

**Oct 01:** Nm 11:25-29

Ps 19: 8, 10, 12- 14

Jas 5:1-6

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**Oct 08:** Gn 2:18-24

Ps 128:1-6

Heb 2:9-11

Mk 10:2 -16

**Oct 15:** Wis 7:7-11

Ps 90:12-17

Heb 4:12-13

Mk 10:17-30

**Oct 22:** Is 53:10-11

Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

Heb 4:14-16

Mk 10:35-45

**Oct 29:** Jer 31:7-9

Ps 126:1-6

Heb 5:1-6

Mk 10:46-52

**ORDER:** *"Do not prevent him... for whoever is not against us is for us." (Mk 9:39-40)*

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. *Intensify your prayer life and your commitment to read the Word of God daily to nourish your relationship with the Lord. Reconcile with God through the sacraments.*
2. *Have a daily reflection of your life; check what areas of your life that needs to be cleansed by the Lord.*

## Monthly Reflections

**Week # 1:** 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Self-Knowledge

**Theme:** We belong to Christ as His disciples when we call on God to cleanse us of our faults.

**Promise:** *"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ...will surely not lose his reward." (Mk 9:41)*

**Word:** Spirit came to rest on me and on them...they prophesied.

**Order:** Do not prevent him...for whoever is not against us is for us.

"Would that all the LORD's people were prophets!" (Nm 11:29).

Moses had it right. Joshua was upset that Eldad and Medad were prophesying in the Israelite camp, but Moses couldn't have been more pleased. As far as he was concerned, when it came to finding voices to speak God's word to the people, the more the merrier!

Even today, God says: "Oh, how I would love for each of my children to be a prophetic voice in the world." Let's be clear. It doesn't take a theology degree or a doctorate in philosophy to qualify as a spokesperson for the Lord. It just takes a humble and contrite heart, an openness to hear God's voice in prayer, and a desire to share what God tells us with others. You don't need to be an eloquent speaker, and you don't need to have every element of the Christian faith perfectly mastered. But what does God want me to say? That's something we can discover only as we pray and immerse ourselves in his word. You may feel prompted to listen more than you speak: to listen closely when people share struggles and difficulties, so that you can pray for them. We have to learn the humility and trust necessary to listen to God and to let God speak his word through us. *Continued next page...*

## Following Jesus, Our Model

*By Phoenix DIP Shepherds: Chito & Aileen Ciocon*

We begin the month of October celebrating the feast days of two major saints: St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi. Both of them were ordinary people from very divergent backgrounds and yet they had one thing in common - - they both chose to follow the Lord. St. Therese answered God's call early in life while St. Francis took a little longer before he finally realized and accepted the Lord's plan for him.

Thanks to the mighty outpouring and miraculous graces of the Holy Spirit, the BLD Phoenix community had just completed LSS #4 last month. The seminar was not only blessed by the twenty-six participants but also by the generous and selfless giving of three couples and first-time home-grown sharers (Simon & Lulu Lam, Alex & Lina Alba, and Pedro & Cita Rivera).

*Continued on page 3...*

**Monthly Reflections** *continued from previous page...*

**Week # 2:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Faithfulness

**Theme:** We belong to Christ as His disciples when we are faithful to our calling.

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

**Word:** Accept the kingdom of God like a child, and stay as a family with our heavenly Father, His bride the Church, our mother.

**Order:** Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.

Right from the beginning of time, God made man and woman as suitable companions to rule and dominate over all the animals and living creatures. Man was made on the 6th day together with the animals, therefore man has a body and soul like the animals, with all the animal instincts. The 7th day of creation, was made for man as Sabbath day, a day for man to offer thanks to God. A thanks offering day to the Lord of Creation.

Men are not like animals because God made them in His own image and likeness. Therefore men are made higher than the animals, but "lower than the angels." God is not alone. It is a trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, before the creation of heaven and earth. In Their image and likeness, man and woman when joined together by God is one of flesh, and this flesh becomes a living soul in the image and likeness of their parents. One flesh into three bodies, one family of three beings, one into three --in God's image and likeness: The holy trinity. God made the Holy Trinity as man's familial likeness, no one is to break this unity of a family. In the grand salvation plan, for God the Son to defeat the devil (sin) by conquering death (result of sin), He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. God the Son become man to die and resurrect from death. Man therefore needs to die with Him, and be resurrected by Him, with a simplistic willingness to obey and follow Jesus, the Son of God, like a little child.

**Week # 3:** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Self-giving

**Theme:** We belong to Christ as His disciples when we are totally committed to Him.

**Promise:** *"All things are possible for God."* (Mk 10:27)

**Word:** We give up everything to the Lord and follow him.

**Order:** "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then follow me."

While we may or may not have material riches, we all fear that God may ask us to give up something we hold dear to our hearts and convince us that nothing can compare to knowing the Lord. The rich man struggled with the thought that he could do everything God asked and still remain in control of his life. Like him, we can be tempted to look at the Christian life as primarily a matter of doing the right things. We forget that God created us to be in a relationship with Him. Of course he wants us to do good things for Him, but he also wants us to do them with Him. He wants to come into our hearts so that our walk of faith becomes a joy, not a burden.

*Continued next page...*



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

1 Jn 4:16

(3rd Series of 5)

### **"The Fruit of Love"**

**C**hristian faith isn't about subscribing to ideas or joining a club. As all of the great saints reveal in their spiritual lives, faith is rooted in an encounter with a Person-the Word made Flesh. That encounter is one of love, in which we come to see how deeply loved we are by God who created and sustains us. That's a new reality, one that's very different from a world in which we love is defined in terms of emotion, personal satisfaction, or even mere pleasure. It's a reality our deepest instincts tell us is true. We know that our deepest desire is for faithful, lasting love. We know that a "love" centered on seeking pleasure ultimately gives no life at all. We also know that, as God has poured out love on us, we turn, nourished and energized, to share that love with the world. It isn't a burden; it's something that, nourished by prayer, we can't hold back. This love, or *caritas* ("charity," also described as "service"), is one of the three fundamental roles of the Church in the world, along with being a living witness to Jesus and worshiping God.

From the selection of the seven deacons in the Acts of the Apostles to the loving care the early Jerusalem Christians gave each other, this service of love has been at the center of Christian life. It recognizes the mandate that Jesus gives in Matthew 25: "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me."

Personal piety, no matter how fervent or devout, is not the end of Christian faith. The Gospels and the witness of the early Christians are very clear about this: As we open ourselves up to Jesus, we're moved to open ourselves up to others as well, to see them in their need and to love as Jesus did.

Charity, however, is not the only way to help others. Since many problems that lead to poverty and suffering find their roots in unjust social and economic structures, so that they reflect the principles of justice, is a fruit of love.

However, the actual work for change in these structures, while important, is work that belongs in the political realm. The Church offers its wisdom and insight on this work, and individual Christians are certainly called to bring their own witness into the political sphere to effect change. But the Church itself, as the Body of Christ, is charged by Jesus in the Gospel to attend most closely to those in need through immediate, direct, compassionate, and personal loving acts of charity.

Next Issue: **Keeping a Balance**

## Monthly Reflections *continued...*

He knows that this is the only way we will let go of the tight control we like to have over our lives. So ask yourself today, "What is ruling me? Is it Jesus? Or is it something else?"

**Week # 4:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Servanthood

**Theme:** We belong to Christ as His disciples when we serve the needs of all.

**Promise:** *"If he gives his life as a offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life." (Is 53:10).*

**Word:** Whoever wants to be great will be your servant and whoever wishes to be first will be the slave of all.

**Order:** Do not come to be served, but to serve.

Every day, God invites us to come and receive gifts from Him. Today's reading from Hebrews mentions specifically the gifts of "mercy" and "help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16), but God's invitation includes a much wider array of gifts as well: peace, encouragement, hope, joy, healing, grace to forgive, guidance, and insights into God's path for our lives. In fact, there is no end to the gifts God wants to give us! In Old Testament times, it was dangerous to approach the throne of a king. According to the Book of Esther, everyone knew that daring to do so could lead to death --unless the king held out the golden scepter as a sign of acceptance (Esther 4:11). But this warning didn't stop Esther. She took the risk in order to intercede for her people. And the king heard her, granted her request, and even raised her above all other people. This is how it will be for us when we come before the throne of our God. We are His beloved children, and He will always welcome us. We don't have to be like Jacob, who tried to trick his father for a blessing. When God sees us, He will put his arms around us, draw us to Himself, and ask us what we need. Then, with a huge smile on His face, He will open His box of treasures and give us exactly the right gifts. So what are we waiting for? On this day of Sabbath blessing, don't be afraid to approach the Almighty God. He is, after all, our Father!

**Week # 5:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Inter-dependence

**Theme:** We belong to Christ as His disciples when we witness to others to respond to His call.

**Promise:** *"Go your way, your faith has saved you." (Mk 10:52)*

**Word:** "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."

**Order:** "Go your way; your faith has saved you."

The past few Sundays, we have read about Jesus' call to humility, service, and lowliness. Jesus' encounter with the rich young man (Mark 10:17-27) and James and John's request (10:35-45), emphasize both the impossibility of following the Lord on our own strength and God's abundant generosity in enabling us to do things that are beyond our natural ability. In these stories, we meet people whose responses fell short of what Jesus was looking for. But in today's story of blind Bartimeus, we are introduced to someone who understood. Jesus asked Bartimeus the same question he asked James and John: "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51, 10:36). He knew that they would only ask of him the things they believed he could accomplish, and that this would reveal who they really thought he was. Bartimeus asked for something that he could not accomplish on his own, while James and John asked for something they felt they could live up to.

*Continued next page...*

## MONTHLY TEACHINGS

(Every 3rd Weekend of the Month-Venue TBA)

**Oct 21** - "Basic Bible Study" (for ALL but specially for LSS 4 Class)

**Oct 22** - Teachings for the DLC  
(Topic/s to be determined)

### **Following Jesus, Our Model** *continued from page 1...*

The Albas and the Riveras, together with Lee Junia, also had just sealed their covenants with the Lord through the community on the Friday of the LSS Invocation Mass. So for that extraordinary event in September 2006, five members of BLD Phoenix, after completing the CDFP (Christian Discipleship Formation Program) requirements and discipling sessions, chose to answer the Lord's call to discipleship through the BLD. Truly an amazing and unparalleled event that only the Holy Spirit could have scripted!

A word of caution, though, for anyone who wants to be Christ's disciple. Jesus tells us in Matthew 16:24-25, ***"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."*** Following the Lord is never easy. The challenge is full of trials, setbacks, hardships and tribulations. There will be a lot of pruning and 'dying to self.' Yet, we rely on God's promise that He will never abandon nor forsake us; that if we lose our life for His sake, we will find true meaning and purpose not only in this life but in the life to come. Both Sts. Therese and Francis faced many ordeals and troubles but they did not give up.

They clung to the Lord especially when problems arose. There is no trial that the Lord allows in our lives that He has not already provided a way out of. As Blessed Mother Teresa said so often, "God does not call me to be successful. He calls me to be faithful."

As we carry on in our daily struggles to follow the Lord and to give him our "Fiat", let us take consolation in the fact that He already conquered sin and death and that our reward is truly out of this world. ***"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven"*** (Matthew 5:12).

May the Lord continue to prosper, protect, guide, and lead the BLD Phoenix community and its members so that as we remain faithful to Him, we can be truly fruitful in the mission that He has entrusted us with.

**St. Simon & St. Jude, pray for us.**  
(Feast, October 28)

### Regular Monthly Schedule

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

Corporate Praise & Worship (Rosary at 7 PM)

**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

**Oct 29** Filipino Community Sunday Mass at OLV  
(Sponsored by BLD-every last Sunday)

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

### Reunions

**Oct 21** Grand Reunion LSS #4 (OLV)

**Oct 28** M.E. 5 Reunion (Venue to be determined)

### Church Calendar

**Oct 7** Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

## Birthdays

- 2 - Marion Haughton (YE 2)
- 6 - Chris Korte (ME 3)
- 11 - Ross David (ME 5)
- 14 - Madeline Merrick (ME 5)
- 17 - Jomel De Jesus (YE 1)
- 17 - Eva Tejada (SPE 1)
- 23 - Myra Magnaye (ME 1)
- 26 - Timaira Magnaye (YE)
- 20 - Kate De Jesus (YE 2)
- 29 - Rey Conopio (ME 1)

## Anniversaries

- 24 - Patrick & Madeline Merrick (ME 5)
- 26 - Rey & Mary Ann Conopio (ME 1)
- 30 - Mario & Lucy De Leon (ME 6 Davao)
- 30 - Jonathan & Eunice Lurenana (ME 1)

## **THE LORD'S PROVISIONS**

Cash flow as of September 2006

<i>Receipts</i>	\$ 6,030.10
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 5,831.08
<i>Surplus</i>	\$ 199.02
<i>(Deficits)</i>	

\*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**

## **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](mailto:dennyc1220@cox.net). Please see insert for Prayer Warrior Schedule for October & November.

### Life in the Spirit Apostolate (LSA)

The Grand Reunion and Teachings for LSS #4 graduates will be on Oct. 21, 2006 at OLV. Time is to be determined. All shepherds: please disseminate this information to your lambs and encourage attendance.

### 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 from MLA Coordinators Joseph & Milrose Kodumal or the website for download. Fund-raising for M.E. 6 is ongoing with the "Merienda" after 5 PM Filipino Mass at OLV until Nov. 5. Everyone is invited to support and serve. The "Masquerade Ball" is also 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.

### Praise Ministry

Please see Newsletter print insert (separate sheet of paper.)

### Secretariat Ministry

On the 2nd week of this month, personal data forms will be distributed to all encountered members/LSS graduates to update the community database. All forms are to be turned in by the end of November to Secretariat (Jonathan & Eunice Lureñana).

### Service Ministry

The Holidays is around the corner and so is the community's annual Caroling Fund-Raising activity. We are now accepting song suggestions for caroling. Please see or contact Manny & May Siongco for your entries. Tel. #480-600-6810/480-857-4972/[mayshaven@aol.com](mailto:mayshaven@aol.com). Caroling practice will start on the 3rd week of October. Further announcements will be made.

**Monthly Reflections** *continued...*To petition in our weakness and need is harder for us, because it requires humility as well as faith. Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus despite the crowd's rebuke. He saw his helplessness, but he also trusted that Jesus would answer him. We all have different needs: physical, financial, relational, and spiritual. No matter what our need, however, Jesus can help us if we cry out to him. The world often rebukes simple faith in God, but God never does. Trust that what is impossible for you is possible for him, Jesus asks us: "What do you want me to do for you?"

**St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.**  
**(Feast, October 4)**



The Question Box

Posted on September 7, 2006

## “Why Latin”?

INSERT

### Question

I've noticed that there seems to be more **Latin music used at Mass** lately. In honesty, I don't know that I like it but I think it's because I don't understand it. On the other hand, I've heard priests say that this was abolished? Please clarify if possible.

### Answer

The use of Latin in the Sacred Liturgy has, for the most part, fallen out of use over the past 20-30 years especially, so no doubt becoming familiar with it again may surprise a number of folks. *The reasons for Latin falling aside are another matter altogether, but this was not, in fact, the desire of the Church nor the directive of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) that revised some liturgical matters in the life of the Church. Latin does, indeed, remain the official language of the Catholic Church.* But a couple of items may help here.

1) The greater portion of our own English language is drawn from Latin and French (Latin-based!), so while we're not used to the sound of Latin nor do we necessarily “get” the syntax and structure of this language; it is recognizable to some extent. Latin is the mother of most western languages, but is the possession of no single country or people... this is important, as **Latin has been adopted and has served for almost two millennia as the “universal” language for the Church.** It also has to be admitted, too, *that a lot of words we use in English aren't well-understood by our people either!* You may notice that we've been singing some of the "Ordinary" parts of the Mass -- Sanctus, Agnus Dei, Gloria -- we've been saying/singing them in English for years now, so we know what they "mean."

2) **The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council actually stated clearly that “all things being equal, the Latin language is to be retained” in the western Church.** This document – the first produced by the Council – also devoted an entire section to *sacred music* in which the desire of the Church was expressed unequivocally: **Gregorian Chant is THE style of music of the Roman Church and as such is to be given pride of place. As well, the organ is to be held in the highest esteem as THE musical instrument of the Roman Church.** Following the Council, though, the Church approved the possibility of the celebration of Mass entirely in the vernacular (local languages), and also, again, with approval of national bishops' conferences, introduction of other forms of music and musical instruments. **In other words, Latin was never abolished,** but wider use of vernacular languages and other forms of SACRED music was permitted. In our times, **when the faithful from many different nationalities and cultures come together all the more frequently and easily, Latin serves as a uniting element** – which is why it was adopted in the first place.

3) Recent directives of the Church – **the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) in particular** – **have emphasized the above-mentioned points and given them considerable force: “it is highly DESIRABLE that the faithful are able to say or sing those Ordinary parts of the Mass” that do not change: i.e. the Kyrie (which actually is Greek!), the Glory to God (Gloria in excelsis), the Creed (this WOULD be a considerable accomplishment!), the Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy), the Our Father (Pater Noster), and the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei). So... yes, we're attempting to work on all this.** We're also trying to accommodate some legitimate variety for people, as well. It's sad that there are some who would view this as “moving backwards”... not at all... in fact, sadly, our SOCIETY has been moving “backwards” for some time on a number of different levels, and the Sacred Liturgy affords us an opportunity to perhaps challenge some of these unfortunate ideas. We're not at all “moving backwards”... we're simply attempting to move and think and pray with the Church where she is “in the NOW” and at the guidance of our shepherds who are gifted with the Lord's own Spirit! Thanks for the great question!

You may please check <http://www.simonjude.net/faq/index.php> for more Q & A.

Shared to you by BLD Phoenix Praise Ministry



## *October: Month of the Holy Rosary*

*"I am the Lady of the Rosary, and I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend our Lord who is already so deeply offended. They must say the Rosary."*

*-The Blessed Mother's message on her 6th apparition at Fatima*

INSERT

### **Why the Rosary? What about the Rosary?**

Many non-Catholics have been trained from childhood to believe that one of the clear proofs of the falsity of Catholicism is to be found in the honor that is paid to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church, and in the innumerable trusting prayers that are offered to her by Catholics. At the same time it is true that many non-Catholics, when they learn what are the genuine foundations of Catholic devotion to Mary, are drawn by it so irresistibly that ultimately they become Catholics. For the truth is very simple and clear, and is all contained in the following two truths.

1. Mary is the Mother of God ( Luke 1:43 ). Catholics do not believe that God was bound by any compulsion to have a Mother; they believe that He chose to have a Mother and all that this implies. He chose to permit His human body to be formed in her womb ( Luke 1:35 ). He chose to permit her to bring Him forth as a tiny baby into the world. He chose to let her feed Him at her breast, carry Him in her arms, guard Him from danger, and teach Him as any child would be taught, to walk and speak and pray. He thereby chose to grant Mary a power over Him that only love can bestow ( Luke 2:51 ). Catholics believe that in choosing a mother, the Son of God chose to grant her the power over His will that the love of a good mother always wields over a good son.

2. Mary is a mother to all men. Catholics believe that the Son of God chose to come into the world through a mother in order that that mother might accept as His brothers all the children of the sinful race of man. He set an example as to how she should be honored and loved. He prepared her for this motherhood of all by asking her to suffer every conceivable form of pain ( Luke 2:35 ), thus teaching her sympathy for the sorrows of her children. Had she been His Mother alone, He would have spared her from pain, because He had the power to do so and because He loved her with an infinite love. He wrought His first public miracle at her request ( John 2:1-11 ), and when He was dying He reminded her that she had been destined from the beginning to be a Mother to all ( John 19:27 ). Catholics therefore believe that Mary will be as eager to help them, in troubles of soul and body, as every natural mother is eager to promote the welfare of her child.

The rosaries that Catholics recite are but the expression of their belief in these two truths ( Luke 1:48 ). They know that if Mary speaks to her divine Son in their behalf, there can be no doubt about their receiving an answer to their prayers. ( The Wedding at Cana: Mary interceded when she tells Jesus that there was no more wine and reflected her divine motherly authority when she tells the servants "do whatever He tells you". Jn 2:1-12 )

In recent times the Mother of God has appeared in various parts of the world and asked for the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the prayer she gave to the world centuries ago. **It is her favorite prayer for it is essentially a meditation on the life of her Divine Son.** The rosary has been called *the* preparation for contemplation and *the* prayer of saints. While the hands and lips are occupied with the prayers, the mind meditates on the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption represented by the decades. Meditation is the form of prayer by which the one who prays uses the mind and imagination to consider a truth and uses the will to love it and form resolutions to live it. In this way the heart, mind, and soul of the Christian is formed according to the Gospel examples of the Savior and His First Disciple, His Mother. In God's own time, when this purification of the heart, mind, and soul has advanced sufficiently the Lord may give the grace of contemplative prayer, that special divine insight into the truth which human effort cannot achieve on its own.

**Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.**