



### Month of September

**WORD:** *We keep the Father's command when we live His Word.*

**Sep 03:** Dt 4:1-2, 6-8;  
Ps 15:2-5;  
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Sep 10:** Is 35:4-7a;  
Ps 146:7-10;  
Jas 2:1-5;  
Mk 7:31-37

**Sep 17:** Is 50:5-9a;  
Ps 116:1-6, 8-9;  
Jas 2:14-18;  
Mk 8:27-35

**Sep 24:** Ws 2:12, 17-20;  
Ps 54:3-8;  
Jas 3:16-4:3;  
Mk 9:30-37

**ORDER:** *"Be doers of the Word and not hearers only."*  
(James 1:22)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. *Read and reflect on the Word for the day; be a living witness to others and help them do the same.*
2. *Enhance our discipleship formation through community mission work.*

#### **PROPHECIES:**

1. *My children do not allow yourselves to be stained by the pressures of the world. Listen to my inspiration.*
2. *Humbly welcome the Word that I have planted in you to save your souls by following my commandments.*

### **ORDER:** *"Be doers of the Word and not hearers only".*

(James 1:22)

In the Gospel of Mark 7:7ff, Pharisees and Scribes confront Jesus about the traditional practice of purification, a practice not followed by His disciples, who were eating without washing their hands. In his response to their complaint, Jesus demonstrates his contempt for hypocrisy: *"...Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.'"* This words might as well be directed at us, for how many times have we limited our religious observance to measurable external actions and observing the letter of the law, while ignoring its spirit, neglecting core spiritual values such as kindness, compassion, mercy, forgiveness? We run the risk of fulfilling religious obligations while failing to live lives of love.

We tend to grumble about how God is treating us. Today, we find the situation reversed. Jesus has a complaint against us! How often have we complained about the difficulty of following Jesus Christ and obeying the Father's commands? We think these are only meant for ordained ministers of God – priests and religious – and perhaps those who are retired from their secular jobs. What precisely does the Father command us to do?

Jesus summarizes these commands in Matthew 22:37, *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."*

It is only in the renewal of our hearts and minds that we can follow Jesus, and in following Him, be led by Jesus to the Father. Jesus says, *"Wicked designs come from the deepest recesses from our hearts; acts of fornication, theft, murder, adulterous conduct, greed, maliciousness, deceit, sensuality, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, an obtuse spirit. All these evil comes form within and render a man impure"* (Mark 7:21-23). We plant these evil in our hearts when we focus more on the worldly things and attitudes and when we continue to associate with worldly rather spiritual persons, and fail to focus on God and His Word.

As our hearts become engrossed in worldly things and pursuits, they become our main preoccupation, and our whole being becomes focused on the things of this world - wealth, power, and the esteem of others. This constant striving for material things becomes a vicious cycle that keeps us wanting and hungering for more of the same, turning us into slaves of our own making. Peace will elude us, for as St. Augustine's exclaimed: "My heart is restless until it finds rest in You!"

Our spiritual journey begins with the constant renewal of our minds; for as we absorb impure thoughts, evil desires, resentments, hate, anger, unforgiveness, and other negative things, they become lodged in our hearts. St Paul says: "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is ...continued on page 3

## THEMES & PROMISES FOR AUGUST:

### **Week#1 (22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We live the Father's word when we care for orphans and widows in their affliction.

**Promise:** *"Whoever does these things shall never be disturbed."* (Psalm 15:5)

### **Week#2 (23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We live the Father's word when we show no partiality in our ministry work.

**Promise:** *"... God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him..."* (James 2:5)

### **Week #3 (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We live the Father's word when we demonstrate our faith thru our works.

**Promise:** *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it".* (Mark 8:35)

### **Week #4 (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We live the Father's word when we place others ahead of us and serve the needs of all.

**Promise:** *"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."* (Mark 9:35)

## **Mary The Blessed Virgin**

The Mother, of God, Mother of Jesus, wife of St. Joseph, and the greatest of all Christian saints. The Virgin Mother "was, after her Son, exalted by divine grace above all angels and men". Mary is venerated by St. Thomas Aquinas, as the highest of God's creatures. The principal events of her life are celebrated as liturgical feasts of the universal Church. Mary's life and role in the history of salvation is pre-figured in the Old Testament, while the events of her life are recorded in the New Testament. Traditionally, she was declared the daughter of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Born in Jerusalem, Mary was presented in the Temple and took a vow of virginity. Living in Nazareth, Mary was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who announced to her that she would become the Mother of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit. The **birthday of Mary** is an old feast in the Church, celebrated on **September 8** since the 7th century. Pope Pius XII dedicated the entire human race to Mary in 1944. The Church has long taught that Mary is truly the Mother of God. St. Paul observed that "God sent His Son, born of a woman," expressing the union of the human and the divine in Christ." *Continued next page...*

## MONTHLY TEACHINGS

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

- Sept 16** - "New Creation Realities" and "Growth in Prayer" (for LSS1-LSS 4 Class, Amor Dei)  
Oct 21 - "Basic Bible Study" (for all mentioned above)  
Oct 22 - Teachings for the DLC  
(Topic/s to be determined)

## **Pope Benedict's First Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* ("God is Love") 1 Jn 4:16 (2nd Series of 5)**



### **"Jesus: Love Itself"**

In Jesus, this divine love in all of its dimensions takes flesh, dramatically and fully. There is no mystery any longer about what love is. Jesus seeks the lost and pours out His very life for them. As Pope Benedict writes, the place where this all joins, where our understanding of the real nature of love begins, is in the "pierced side Christ." This loving, healing presence is not just an image from the past, however. It's not just something to think about and hope for. Jesus is present now, in love. How can we find that true love and make it a part of our lives? Seek the face of love in Jesus, and make a personal relationship with Him the center of your faith.

- Meet Jesus in the Eucharist, where His love is poured out for you here and now-as it was on the Cross, as it was at the Last Supper.
- Let the love of Jesus you embrace in the Eucharist adjust your vision so that you see others as He does: beloved brothers and sisters.
- Let your daily choices be led by Jesus' example of sacrificial love and nourished by His loving presence.

*"By contemplating the pierced side of Christ, we can understand the starting-point of this Encyclical Letter: God is love (1 Jn 4:8). It is there that this truth can be contemplated. It is from there that our definition of love must begin. In this contemplation the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move."* (Deus Caritas -12)

Saintly Models of Love: If we're looking for examples of how to live this love, the saints are here to show the way. As Pope Benedict mentions, St. Martin of Tours, St. Anthony the Abbot, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, St. John Bosco, and-in our own time-St. Teresa of Calcutta show us that this life of love is not only possible, but joyful and fruitful.

**Next Issue: The Fruit of Love**

**Mary the Blessed Mother** *continued...*As Christ possesses two natures, human and divine, Mary was the Mother of God in His human nature. This special role of Mary in salvation history is clearly depicted in the Gospel in which she is seen constantly at her Son's side during His salvific mission. Because of this role exemplified by her acceptance of Christ into her womb, her offering of Him to God at the Temple, her urging Him to perform His first miracle, and her standing at the foot of the Cross at Calvary Mary was joined fully in the sacrifice by Christ of Himself. Pope Benedict XV wrote in 1918: "To such an extent did Mary suffer and almost die with her suffering and dying Son; to such extent did she surrender her maternal rights over her Son for man's salvation, and immolated him - insofar as she could in order to appease the justice of God, that we might rightly say she redeemed the human race together with Christ". Mary possesses a unique relationship with all three Persons of the Trinity, thereby giving her claim to the title of Queenship. She was chosen by God the Father to be the Mother of His Son; God the Holy Spirit chose her to be his virginal spouse for the Incarnation of the Son; and God the Son chose her to be his mother, the means of incarnating into the world for the purposes of the redemption of humanity. This Queen is also our Mother. While she is not our Mother in the physical sense, she is called a spiritual mother, for she conceives, gives birth, and nurtures the spiritual lives of grace for each person. As Mediatrix of All Graces, she is ever present at the side of each person, giving nourishment and hope, from the moment of spiritual birth at Baptism to the moment of death. The confidence that each person should have in Mary was expressed by Pope Pius IX in the encyclical *Ubi prius* : "The foundation of all our confidence...is found in the Blessed Virgin Mary. For God has committed to Mary the treasury of all good things, in order that everyone may know that through her are obtained every hope, every grace, and all salvation. For this is his will, that we obtain everything through Mary."

***Happy Birthday, Mother Mary!***

Mary, Help of all Christians, Pray for us.

**Faith Trivia:**

What is a Feastday? Religious feasts celebrate or commemorate certain concepts or events in the history of their respective religion with particular traditions and rituals.

*A feast can take the place of a Sunday only if the feast is a feast of the Lord himself. For example, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6) or the Triumph of the Cross (September 14).*

**Be Doers of the Word** *continued...*

the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." (Rom 12:2) To recognize, repent and confess our sins, and make a firm resolve never to commit them again are the first steps in allowing the Holy Spirit to rule our minds and purge ourselves of sinful desires. Then we must discipline ourselves by reading more spiritual books rather than spending so much time reading newspapers, watching television, and engaging in worthless conversations, like gossip. We need to pray and read the Bible daily; not only the daily readings, but to progress to reading the Psalms, Proverbs, Sirach in which the Lord teaches us how to lead good Christian lives. Then we can proceed to the other books of the Bible. The Gospels gives us a clear portrait of Christ and his ministry, as he traveled up and down the Galilean countryside, showing us how Jesus himself, followed each and every command of the Father. For He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, our blueprint who came, not to abolish the old laws, but to fulfill them and perfect them (Mat.5:17).

***"Let everyone heed what he hears,"*** says Jesus (Mk 7:23), admonishing us to listen carefully. We need to take time to slowly read, absorb and understand the Word of God, verse by verse, that it may sink in and be lodged in our hearts, displacing whatever evil we may have absorbed from the world.

As we walk without blame, doing what is right, and speaking the truth from our hearts, we begin to abide and dwell in God's presence. We should not take up a reproach or find fault, upbraid, censure or discredit, nor do harm, or defame a friend or neighbor. (Ps 15:3) Instead, our aim should be to imitate the Good Samaritan, who was compassionate, or the man who opened his door at night and gave his neighbor bread for a visitor. We should not be conceited, provoking one another, or envious of one another (Gal 5:29). We should be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven us in Christ (Eph 4:32). Sirach 25:1 says: ***"With three things I am delighted, for they are pleasing to the Lord and to men: Harmony among brethren, friendship among neighbors, and the mutual love of husband and wife."***

St. John says, ...***"If anyone says, I love God but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."*** (1Jn 5:20)

As we become doers of the Word of God, we will receive the blessings promised by God in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, that blessing upon blessings will be poured upon those who heed the voice of the Lord, and are careful to observe all his commandments. St. Paul affirms this in Ephesians 1:3 which states that those who are in Christ are blessed with every spiritual blessing. More importantly, Jesus gives His peace, abundant life in this world, and the eternal life with our Heavenly Father in the age to come (Jn 20:19; Lk18:30b) to those who follow Him and His commands.

*Teach us to love, O God, that we might revere Your Law.*

### 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:**

Healing Mass

Eucharistic Adoration/Confession (6 PM)

### Community Calendar/Events

**Sept 8-10** Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) #4

**Sept 24** Filipino Community Sunday Mass at OLV  
(Sponsored by BLD-every last Sunday)

### Reunions

**Sept 30** #4-M.E. 5 (Kodumal Residence)

### Church Calendar

**Sept 8** The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Sept 14** Exaltation of the Holy Cross

## Birthdays

- 1 - John Go (YE 2)
- 2 - Alexis De Jesus (YE 2)
- 3-Wee Montano (SE1)
- 4 - Tessalyn Marquez (YE 2)
- 6 - Fr. Reggie Carreon (ME 5)
- 7 - Pedro Rivera (ME 3)
- 8 - Pepe Beronia (ME 1)
- 10 - Jake Clark (YE 1)
- 10 - Fely Gampol (SPE 1)
- 15 - Marie Tioseco (ME 4)
- 21 - Bushen Rivera(YE)
- 21-Waricel Rillorta (SE1)
- 22- Ma. Theresa Querol (SE1)
- 24 - Adri Junia (YE 1)
- 27 - Jess Go (ME 5)
- 27 - Jon Ward (ME 4)
- 29 - Ato Capili (SPE 1)

## Anniversaries

- 1 - Denny & Nina Custodio (ME 4)

## THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of August 2006

<i>Receipts</i>	\$ 11,065.00
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 10,544.99
<i>Surplus</i>	\$ 520.01
<i>(Deficits)</i>	

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

## Ministry Announcements

### Intercessory Ministry

The contents of the weekly Intercessory Prayers are generally updated on a monthly basis. Please offer petitions again 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).

### Life in the Spirit Apostolate (LSA)

There will be a LSS#4 Team meeting on Sept. 2, 2006 at 9:00 AM at the Most Holy Trinity Parish Youth Bldg. Please see Gerry & Gladdine Bautista for any concerns regarding the LSSW. To all other LSS graduates, please sign-up (sign-in sheet at Registration Area) to serve during the LSS weekend. Lunch is potluck.

### Other Announcements:

There will be no Friday activity for BLD at OLV this Sept. 8 (LSS#4 Weekend). All is invited to celebrate the Invocation Mass for LSS #4 at the Most Holy Trinity Parish Youth Building at 7 PM. (Southwest of Dunlap and 7th St.)

## **1st Singles Encounter for BLD Phoenix**

Last August 11-13, BLD Phoenix conducted its first ever Singles Encounter Weekend at the Living Water Retreat with the help of the Singles Ministry of BLD Newark. It was truly a Spirit-filled weekend with 16 candidates from Phoenix. From the class, 4 coordinators were discerned by the pastoral team namely: Wari Rillorta, Eeve Tejada, Paolo Castro and Myca Siongco. They will be assisting the Class Shepherds, Lee and Arlene Junia in coordinating the reunion activities for the class as well as preparations for the next SE.

During the weekend, members of the BLD community came together to provide auxiliary support for the pastoral team. They made sure that the vigil prayers were continually ongoing and that everyone was provided the necessary support.

It was no doubt a victory for the Lord and for the entire BLD Phoenix community. Thank you!



Singles Encounter Class #1

[www.BLDPhoenix.com](http://www.BLDPhoenix.com)