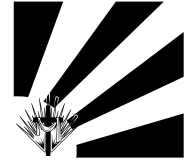




BLD PHOENIX

VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 7

Ordinary Time Year C

July 2010

Month of July

WORD: *The Lord's power shall be upon His committed servants.*

READINGS

July 4 Is 66:10-14c
Ps 66: 1-7,16,20
Gal 6: 14-18
Lk 10:1-12,17-20

July 11 Dt 30:10-14
Ps 69:14,17,30 - 37
Col 1:15-20
Lk 10: 25-37

July 18 Gn 18:1-10a
Ps 15:2-5
Col 1:24-28
Lk 10: 38-42

July 25 Gn: 18:20-32
Ps 138: 1-3,6-8
Col 2:12-14
Lk 11:1-13

Youth Encounter #6

July 30-Aug 1, 2010

Living Water Retreat Center
595 S. Aspaas Road, Cornville, Az 86325

The YE is open to all youth ages
15-20 years old.

Waiver from parents required.
Please contact May Siongco and
Ariel & Judy Bautista for more details.

BIRTHDAYS

4 - Jenn Bolosan 15 - Mike Sandstedt
5 - Harmon Dilema 21 - Rudy Jaravata

ANNIVERSARIES

18 - Chris & Mary Ann Korte
14 - Elmer & Thelma Alata

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of June 2010

Receipts	\$2,629.00
Disbursements	\$2,070.60
Surplus (Deficit)	\$558.40

Website: www.BLDPhoenix.com
Group E-mail: BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com

MONTHLY COUNSELS

Jul 4: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Commitment)

Theme: The Lord's committed servants work for the conversion of others.

Promise: "...Rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Lk 10:20b)

Reflection: In the time of Jesus, the Lord sent 72 disciples **ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit.** Even in our day, God sends us common and ordinary men **ahead of him** into our missions, into places that he intends to go himself but in which he wants us to prepare the harvest, to make it ripe and ready for him. **The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.** The necessity of the mission is laid down upon us. **Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals.** The task is demanding and admits no distractions. There are dangers and perils too. **I will be sending you like lambs among wolves.** Why **no money bag, no sack, no sandals?** The only tool the Lord wants us to have is the Spirit which cannot be bought or acquired. He gives it freely but it requires commitment and single mindedness. The only requirement of the true disciple is total reliance on God's provision. There is no promise of instant results but in the end, God does promise **"Lo, I will spread prosperity...like a river,"** and the joy of life **and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.** God's bounty withholds nothing. There is implied abundance. As we do for others, so shall he do for us. The disciples had jubilant marvel over God's grace in them. They returned home with an almost intoxicating wonder over their power even against demons. They had the power to **"tread upon serpents' and scorpions.** But Jesus had to remind them, **"Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."** What better reward is there? In our day, our mission for Christ is to have a life of change, a commitment to service and virtue, a purposeful life of prayer and compassion. **For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision,** neither Gentile nor Jew, black, brown or white, male or female, adult or child **but only a new creation.** Jesus said, **"I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky."** And so it is, that as Christians we bear the marks of Jesus in our flesh and the kingdom of God is on the rise, but we do not rejoice because Satan falls like lightning from the sky. We rejoice instead because as Jesus has promised **our names are written in heaven.**

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us our mission on earth. We commit to loving you and our neighbors. The focus of our lives is to serve you and others. Help us be like you.

Order: "Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals." (Lk 10: 4a)

Directions: Let us bring our friend and neighbor to the knowledge of Jesus. By the witness of our works and prayer, let us lead them to the love and service of God and others.

Jul 11: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Compassion)

Theme: The Lord's committed servants carry out works of mercy.

Promise: "For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. The descendants of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall inhabit it." (Ps 69: 37)

Reflection: The parable of the Good Samaritan is universally familiar. The message is love and compassion. The basic command to love is present in every human heart. Love is the whole law. **A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.**

Continued next page...

Counsels continued from page 1...

Jericho is in the plain of the Jordan River, some 17 miles to Jerusalem, some 3300 feet below sea level, whose road was a desert, rocky and treacherous terrain of the time. The road to Jericho by reason of that stretch, darkness and its circumstances was a haven for brigands, bandits and foul play. In a modern setting, the road to Jericho is any long, out of the way, poorly travelled street that tempts the full display of the dark and criminal side of men. Where is the road to Jericho? Always, there is such a road for uninvited, unfortunate, unexpected, unwelcome possibilities that arise from the coarser, sinister, unsavory and unintended vagaries of human character. On that road, **a man fell victim** and was left **half-dead. A priest and a Levite**, when they saw him, **passed by on the opposite side**. We know nothing else of these two men except what we know of ourselves when sometimes we choose not to see, not to hear, not to know and not to get involved in anything and we make excuses to avoid helping others. **But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight**. How many **Samaritans**, strangers, seedy looking or rough mannered people have we met who have come upon us or others and had surprised us to our shame with their compassion, honesty and integrity? How many times have we judged such men wrongly? How many times have we imputed false motives on others? Have we not in our life come upon a man who is hurt? Any man is hurt in two ways, by violence or by neglect. Such a man, if he was not hurt by us, do we add to his injury with new violence or fresh neglect from the way we respond to him? Could we be more compassionate? Could we show more kindness? Every man who rouses our mercy by his need or adversity that comes unbidden and undeserved is our **neighbor**. When does it begin and how long is the law of compassion in effect? Is **neighbor** or **compassion** defined by proximity or by how much commonality we have with the man? Love is costly. Mercy is not cheap. But the basic commandment is to love and to meet our brother's need. Does God set a standard for love and mercy that we cannot keep? How do we justify not loving? What excuse is there to withhold compassion?

Prayer: Jesus, help me to put the light of love in the road I travel that I may not make it like the dark, treacherous road to Jericho, a place of weakness, a place of temptation, a place short of grace. Jesus, help me to know where I fail others, where I fall short in loving, where I am lacking in compassion, that I may change. Amen.

Order: **"Go and do likewise."** (Lk 10: 37b)

Directions: Follow God's example. Be sensitive to the needs of others. Be whole hearted. Do not judge. If possible. attribute the best motives in the action of others.

Jul 18 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Prayerfulness and Service)

Theme: The Lord's committed servants find joy in prayer and service.

Promise: *"One who does these things shall never be disturbed."* (Ps 15: 5)

Reflection: **Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.** When we welcome Jesus into our home as Martha did, we could easily forget that although we had invited Jesus, and although it is our home and we think ourselves the hosts, God in truth is always our host. Martha invited Jesus, welcomed Him and lost focus... *Continued next column...*

that there was **need of only one thing:** Jesus. God the visitor, the dignitary, and also the true host, and always the host, is the cause of all things, the doer of all things, the source of all things. He saves us. He enlightens us. He guides us, talks to us and teaches us, so what else really is left for us to do? **There is need of only one thing.** As long as our primary concern is on that, everything else falls into place. But Martha labors and Mary listens. **Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.** As always, the response of Jesus is refreshingly unexpected, always beyond cultural, customary and ordinary expectation, all the better to make his teaching point indelibly remarkable. Are we distracted in our tasks? Are we pulled away into many directions? Have we then taken more than we can do? Have we then never learned that every job is always bigger than it seems? But if we have forgotten our primary concern, our visitor who is also our host, under whose eternal gaze of delight we are, we have distanced him from us and that is why we have become frustrated and confused. God who has designed our destiny has made it so that life is not often an "either/or decision." Seldom is there a strict conflict between what is secular or spiritual, so that if we make a choice it is not purely between prayer and study, faith or works, home or career, self assertiveness or submissiveness. One choice may seem on the surface lacking, but for as long as our compass for the essential is working and we are able to make time and space for the Spirit, then our choice is not lacking at all. God who is kind has made it so that the routine things of life, the ordinary everyday things should not make us hassle. Without faith and absent a plan, our quest for the essential lessens and the world's too many tasks, the endless, mundane domestic pursuits occupy us that we neglect our souls. Our priorities must remain sacred: God's purpose, prayerfulness and service. **"Seek you first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you."** (Mt 6: 33) If we cease to be like others who find it easier to stay on their worldly course and stubbornly slug it through rather than to change to the **better part**, we shall be beloved of the Lord who exhorts us, **"One who does these things shall never be disturbed."**

Order: **"There is need of only one thing."** (Lk 10:42a)

Directions: Do not worry. Do not be anxious. Trust in the Lord. Let go of pride and laziness.

July 25 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Intercession)

Theme: The Lord's committed servants persist in praying for the need of others.

Promise: *"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."* (Lk 11: 10)

Reflection: **"Lord, teach us how to pray."** Our Father, it is good for us to admit inexperience, to confess our inadequacy and not to hide our ignorance in every occasion that we come to face you. Indeed, teach us how to pray. **Hallowed be your name.** Make your name holy in us, as we honor and praise you, as we call you to witness our total dependence and our absolute submission to your power. **Your kingdom come.** It is our sovereign need for your kingdom to come, to comfort us and protect us. **Give us each day our daily bread.** *Continued on pg 4...*

“PEACE TO THIS HOUSEHOLD”

Moving to a new home is always a difficult undertaking. The arduous task of physically moving your belongings and the emotional toll of having to uproot yourself and get used to new surroundings can be very discomfoting. But in the community of the Lord, we go where He leads us and trust in the purpose of His divine will. Just like the disciples when they went on their mission, it was their faith in the divine plan of our Lord that gave them strength to persevere and overcome the challenges they faced in every place the Lord brought them to.

After 4 years at Our Lady of the Valley, He has made available for the BLD community in Phoenix, St. Bernadette Parish Church in Scottsdale as our new home. St. Bernadette offers a central location accessible through the valley's major freeways from both East and West of the valley. Located within a quiet family neighborhood, St. Bernadette provides excellent parking and a fenced play areas for our younger members to play outdoors. Break out rooms are also available for the different apostolate to be able to conduct their activities simultaneously. And important to BLD, a functional kitchen with a good sized outdoor mess area for fellowship.

If the kind of welcome we have received from Fr. Pete Rosa and the parishioners of St. Bernadette is any indication of the future we have at our new home, we truly have been blessed. It is encouraging to see members of the parish attending the Friday P & W and we pray that our Lord will bring more people to our corporate worship.

Looking back, the Lord has always been good to BLD Phoenix as he has always provided the community with good venues for us to be able to praise and worship. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that "the LORD will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails." (Isaiah 58:11) The Lord has provided us not only with a venue but a home. It is now incumbent upon all of us to become wellsprings from which the Love of God overflows and quenches the thirst of those who seek our Lord. While we desire permanence in our home of worship, ultimately, where our Lord leads we shall follow. But for now, he has led us to our new home in St. Bernadette, and in the house of our Lord shall we serve. **LJ**



LETTING GO AND LETTING GOD

BLD Phoenix facilitated its 9th Life in the Seminar on June 19 & 20, 2010 at the Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church parish hall in Glendale, AZ. The seminar was opened with its traditional Invocation Mass on June 18 at the community's new home, St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Scottsdale. Another grace-filled weekend for everyone and another victorious event in honor of our Lord...

The Life in the Spirit Seminar #9 weekend was truly a wonderful experience for me. It was filled with such overwhelming joy, happiness, forgiveness, and love.

To be honest, I wasn't exactly sure what to expect prior to attending LSS but I was open to whatever opportunities God had for me. I didn't know if I would become a changed person or if I would come out of it feeling the same. All I knew was that this weekend was about strengthening my relationship with God and becoming closer to Him through the Holy Spirit.

Through various readings and personal experiences that were shared by faith-filled individuals, I found myself marveling at the vastness of God's love and mercy and how He has touched lives in so many different ways. I thanked God for being a part of my life and prayed that He would rain down his Holy Spirit upon all of us that day.

As I stood arms open during the Anointing session I began praying for God's forgiveness and for his continued comfort and guidance for me and my family. My eyes were closed and I could hear all the prayerful voices that were praising His name. I begged the Lord to take away all my insecurities, all my anger, all my impatience, and humbly asked Him to replace my flaws with his perfect Gifts of the spirit. At that moment I remember praying out loud in tongues, as if the Holy Spirit was flowing through my words. Over and over I said "Lord, Please help me to let go...Help me to let go...I trust You Lord..." I was overcome by tears as my knees became weak and shaky. I found myself lying on the floor arms spread out, feeling tingly in my hands as I continued to pray. I felt a powerful sense of peace and contentment for the remainder of the weekend.

I want to thank God and the entire BLD community for a very enlightening weekend. To my parents, brothers, and future in-laws, I can't thank you all enough for your prayers and support. Lastly I want to thank my fiancée Evangeline for loving me, being patient with me and for helping me strengthen my faith. **AS**



Counsels continued from pg 2 We rely on your fresh mercies. We have continuing dependence on your bounty. **And forgive us our sins.** Sin remains the ultimate barrier that separates us from being fully reconciled to you. **For we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us.** It is proper that we imitate your patience and willingness to forgive. **And do not subject us to the final test.** Lead us not into temptation. Rouse in us the desire to seek death rather than sin. Rouse in us the desire not to be tempted. Help us get to the root of sin and so to destroy temptation and the solicitation of sin.

Prayer: Father, you were patient and willing to indulge Abraham as he bargained for the innocent not to die with the guilty. Father, you were willing to go the distance to restrain the wrath of your justice for those who remain faithful to you. Father, do help us to intercede for others even as your Son did for us as he cancelled the debt of our sins through his death on the cross. Amen.

Order: "Ask and you will receive." (Lk 11: 9a)

Directions: Pray for others as you had been prayed for. Persevere in your intercession for others as unceasingly as Jesus intercedes for the world on the cross.- RSC.

BUKÁS LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY



The Executive Council of Servant Leaders

"We are to be faithful to the Lord, and only to the Lord because we are His servants."

Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Spiritual Director

Ref 10-0528-036

May 28, 2010

To: BLD Covenant Community (Global Districts)

Thru: District Council of Stewards

Cc: District Servant Leaders/ Shepherds of District Clusters
Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, DD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We greet you with the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Further to our letter on February 10, 2010 where we reported the donations received from members of BLD Global Districts for the victims of typhoons "Ondoy", "Pepeng" and "Santi," we are sending you the updated report which includes additional donations.

Total final donations received is **Two Million Seven Hundred Six Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Nine Pesos and Forty Three Centavos (Php 2,706,869.43)** in cash. This does not include donations in kind given by some Districts directly to the typhoon victims. Please refer to **Annex A** for list of Donors and donated amounts by District and **Annex B** for list of the Donees (Philippine Dioceses).

May we request that this report be properly disseminated to all District Members in your newsletters, websites, forwarding emails, etc. May the Lord continue to bless our community as we go about serving Him in accordance to His teachings.

"For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me." (Mat 25:35-36)

Yours in Christ,

Ed and Malou Malay

Presiding Servant Leaders

!!! TEACHING MINISTRY UPDATE !!!

For those who may have missed early sessions of our Catholic Development Formation Program (CDFP), starting on **June 4**, every first Friday after the Healing Mass in **St. Bernadette's**, please attend for the first time, for make up or for review: **Growth in Prayer, Bible Book Series or New Creation Realities.**

Starting on **May 30**, every last Sunday of the month until August, in **Victory Homes**, 1212 N Spencer St., Mesa 85203 teaching on the same topics at **1 to 4 pm** until further notice. Class Shepherds are to notify Teaching Ministry a month in advance of a class reunion, their request for a teaching topic in the CDFP.

Typhoon (Ondoy-Pepeng-Santi) Funds Allocation As of March 4, 2010

ANNEX B

Distribution of Donation Area	Through the Diocese of	Donation	Name of Payee
BLD Members Affected		237,000	79 members of BLD Manila
NCR		400,000	BLD AFP-PNP, BLD San Pablo
Muntinlupa	Parañaque	50,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Parañaque
Pasig	Pasig	150,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Pasig, Inc.
Taguig	Pasig	100,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Pasig, Inc.
Quezon City	Cubao/Novaliches	50,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Cubao
Navotas	Kalookan	50,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Kalookan
Rizal	Antipolo	310,000	
Marikina	Antipolo	100,000	Diocese of Antipolo
Cainta	Antipolo	70,000	Diocese of Antipolo
San Mateo	Antipolo	70,000	Diocese of Antipolo
Taytay	Antipolo	70,000	Diocese of Antipolo
Others		1,440,000	
Cavite	Imus	100,000	Diocese of Imus
Bulacan	Malolos	150,000	Diocese of Malolos
Pampanga	San Fernando	100,000	Archbishop Paciano Aniceto
Laguna	San Pablo	250,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of San Pablo
La Union	La Union	100,000	Diocese of San Fernando, La Union
Pangasinan	Lingayen- Dagupan	250,000	Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan
Kalinga-Apayao	Tabuk	100,000	Apostolic Vicariate of Tabuk
Benguet	Baguio	100,000	Diocese of Baguio-Caritas Baguio
Cagayan	Tuguegarao	100,000	Roman Catholic Archbishop - Tuguegara
Quezon	Lucena	70,000	Lucena Diocesan Social Action Center
Quezon	Gumaca	70,000	Social Action Center - Diocese of Gumaca
Camarines N.	Daet	50,000	RCBD-Diocese of Daet-Oeconomus
TOTAL		2,387,000	
Additional Donation			
Marikina, Cainta, San Mateo, Taytay	Antipolo	80,000	Diocese of Antipolo
Pasig	Pasig	80,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Pasig, Inc.
Laguna	San Pablo	80,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of San Pablo
Quezon City	Cubao/Novaliches	40,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Cubao
Navotas	Kalookan	38,000	Roman Catholic Bishop of Kalookan
Additional Donation to be allocated		318,000	
TOTAL		2,705,000	

Donations As of March 4, 2010 (In Whole Pesos)

ANNEX A

DONORS	AMOUNT
BLD AFP-PNP	100,000.00
BLD Cagayan de Oro	8,218.50
BLD Camden	12,282.80
BLD Cebu	45,481.25
BLD Cleveland	90,884.09
BLD Davao	55,179.00
BLD Detroit	34,837.50
BLD Dumaguete	6,746.15
BLD Hong Kong	79,741.68
BLD Jaro	38,895.00
BLD Laoag	5,000.00
BLD Lipa	19,080.00
BLD Los Angeles	78,734.42
BLD Newark (incl Allentown)	845,973.75
BLD Pagadian	55,804.25
BLD Phoenix	142,146.75
BLD Rockland	75,901.50
BLD Rockville Center	123,557.00
BLD Seattle	23,225.00
BLD St. Catharines	57,384.94
BLD Tagbilaran	5,000.00
BLD Toronto	404,030.25
BLD Trenton	112,409.00
BLD Vancouver	87,200.00
BLD Washington	116,125.00
BLD Zamboanga	24,287.25
ECSL	10,000.00
Individual Donors	49,004.25
TOTAL DONATIONS	2,706,869.33