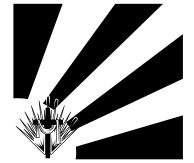




BLD PHOENIX

VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 9

Ordinary Time Year C

September 2010

Month of September

WORD: *A true disciple possesses the heart and character of Christ.*

READINGS

Sep 5 Wis 9:13-18
Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17
Phlm 9-10, 12-17
Lk 14:25-33

Sep 12 Ex 32:7-11, 13-14
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
1 Tim 1:12-17
Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

Sep 19 Amos 8:4-7
Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8
1 Tim 2:1-8
Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Sep 26 Amos 6:1, 4-7
Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
1 Tim 6:11-16
Lk 16:19-31

Marriage Encounter #11 Sept. 24-26, 2010

Holiday Inn & Suites at 1600 South
Country Club Dr. Mesa AZ 85210

Please contact Denny & Nina Custodio for
more information or any ME 10 graduates.

Registration/Info Packet link is available at
www.BLDPhoenix.com

BIRTHDAYS

6 - Fr. Reggie Carreon	22 - Ma. Theresa Querol
7 - Pedro Rivera	24 - Adri Junia
17 - Tito Llanes	25 - Malou Llanes
21 - Bushen Rivera	26 - Bing Magnaye
21 - Waricel Rafael	27 - Jon Ward

ANNIVERSARIES

7 - Tammy & Waricel Rafael
8 - Rudy & Betty Jaravata
9 - Meloy & Donna Larracas
11 - Dante & Maribel Siongco
13 - Phogs & Bheng Gana
18 - Willie & Mei-Ann Gregorio

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of August 2010
Receipts \$2,917.00
Disbursements \$2,039.52
Surplus (Deficit) \$ 877.48

MONTHLY COUNSELS

September 5 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Discipleship)

Theme: We have the heart and character of Christ when we renounce all our possessions and follow him.

Promise: *"...the gracious care of the Lord our God (is) ours; prosper the work of our hands." (Ps 90:17)*

Reflection: Until the end of human history, great crowds will follow Jesus, a multitude of people with diverse reasons and needs. Do all believe? Do all need healing? Will all be consoled? In that throng of the preciously faithful and the merely curious, in that throng of the rich and the needy, the weak and the strong, each one receives as from a banquet a generous serving. Each one receives kingly gifts for their fallen flesh. In Jesus is the world's teacher with depth, whose message is authority. **"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."** But what kind of invitation is this to discipleship? Is this a miscalculation? Yet did not Abraham give his birthplace, country and kinsfolk for God's promise? Did not Peter, Andrew, James and John leave their boats and nets to follow Jesus? Did not Levi leave the tax collector's post? **"Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what God intends?"** Jesus defines the conditions for followers and disciples to be. Does it confuse us that Jesus asks for everything from us? Supreme God and sovereign king, he demands Jesus first and above everything else. Does he claim anything less than he rightfully deserves? Is he not entitled to separate true from false disciples? Does he not seek absolute and total commitment? But he seeks commitment only from those who are free, not any of those who are bonded to self, to the flesh and the world. His invitation to discipleship is addressed to all of us his fallen people, his elect, his chosen ones, from whom for the ultimate anguish of his love for us on the cross, he is merely telling us, "You may not all be crucified, but you must all bear your cross. My grace is sufficient for thee."

Prayer: Dear Jesus, your invitation is very clear, "Come to me not in ignorance but with knowledge and faith." I do not seek a ladder to myself or a ladder to the treasures of the world. I seek you my Christ, my master, my all.

Order: **"Carry (your) own cross and come after me."** (Lk 14:27)

Directions: Always make your plans with God. Do not be afraid to begin. Always be ready. Be prepared. Renounce everything and follow God's lead.

September 12 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Forgiveness)

Theme: We have the heart and character of Christ when we forgive unconditionally.

Promise: *"I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage (Ex 32: 13)*

Reflection: **"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?"** If we were asked the question and we did not know that the Gospel has a triple parable about the lost sheep, the lost coin and finally the lost son, our final answer might be different. Indeed, the question absent its context and expanded meaning in our life poses other simpler, more practical questions.

Continued next page...

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Counsels continued from page 1...

Would I risk what I already possess for something that is lost? Would I voluntarily leave the security I already have and lose control of what I already own when I can cut my losses and quit while I am ahead? When we are dealing with trifles and the inferior things and diversions of the world, when we are wisely acquainted with earthly bankruptcies and have acquired the virtue of Christian acquisition that requires discernment of merits and priorities, we are happy with what we already have lest we are tempted with more and be greedy. But Jesus gives us a triple parable, asks a question and leaves us to ponder its meaning. He opens our hearts to the understanding of sacrificial love like the father's love is for his prodigal son, like God's lavish love is for us, premised ultimately on the answer to the question, "What is the response of love?" **"Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet."** What spurned father humiliates himself by running to meet his wayward son even when he is a great way off? What father gives unconditional forgiveness before his son's words of repentance? What father is there who literally empties himself for his son to restore him to his honor and dignity? There is only one such father, our Father in heaven, who says to every forgiven son, **"Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again, he was lost, and has been found."**

Prayer: Father, cover my sins with your robe of forgiveness, mercy and tenderness. **Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.** Forgive me.

Order: **"Celebrate and rejoice...he was lost and has been found."** (Lk 15:32)

Directions: Recognize your faults. Repent. Ask for forgiveness. Be humble before your God.

September 19 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship)

Theme: We have the heart and character of Christ when we are trustworthy servants.

Promise: *"He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor..."* (Ps 113: 7)

Reflection: **"You cannot serve both God and mammon."** We could all agree on these generalities about money. Some money is tainted. Sometimes money tempts our baser nature. Money is not an end. Money is just one more resource like time and talent, all of which are best used to good purpose. It is not money that is evil. What is evil is the improper use of money or its abuse as when it leads to greed, squander and waste. The parable of the dishonest steward addresses another sad truth in our secular world. The steward and the debtors are children of this world whom we justifiably link with greed and self gain. There is no doubting that **the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their generation than are the children of light.** The parable does not advocate for dishonesty, lack of integrity and conniving to defraud and to steal. What it applauds is stewardship that requires worldly shrewdness and decisive action. What it points out is that we can learn lessons from whatever sources. Success does not just happen. Even human salvation owes itself to various factors among them decisiveness, clear mindedness, logic and reason in crisis, but most of all God's grace and our willing cooperation with it. God's chosen ones, the **children of light**, if they were only *Continued next column...*

more shrewd and more equipped with a sense of judgment, they will accomplish more in their stewardship of God's gifts and works.

Order: **"You cannot serve both God and mammon."** (Lk 16:13b)

Directions: Be honest and trustworthy in everything. If you are God's good steward, having enough is plenty unlike those who already have plenty and it is not enough. Trust in God's provisions.

September 26 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mercy)

Theme: We have the heart and character of Christ when we share our lives with the poor.

Promise: *"Blessed is he who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry."* (Ps 146: 7)

Reflection: God provides us a taste of the paradox of life in the story of Lazarus and the rich man. The unexpected reversal of their life and fortune has lessons. God shows us a glimpse of the chasms that we create between others and ourselves because of our deeds or negligence. There are canyons we can not cross in life and in death. The Lord had a purpose when he placed Lazarus and the rich man together in the story. Lazarus was destitute yet he did not curse God for his lot. He did not complain. He never said "Why me?" He submitted silently to the condition God was pleased to give him. On the other hand, the **rich man dressed in purple garments and linen and dined sumptuously each day.** The rich man was not sinful because of his wealth. He was not sinful because what he had done but because of what he did not do. He was indifferent, uncaring and without compassion. He could not have escaped notice of poor Lazarus at his door. He was guilty of omission. He did not heed the hunger, the needs and the sores of the poor man at his gate. After the death of both men, the rich man was in **the netherworld, where he was in torment** while Lazarus was in the bosom of Abraham. Between them was **a great chasm to prevent anyone from crossing.** But love and compassion do not by themselves guarantee heaven. We still need to believe in God, thwart the ways of the world and conform to God's will the best way we can, but no one merits heaven who has not received God's grace. It is God's infinite mercy that ultimately saves. **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help me never to ignore Lazarus waiting at my door. Have mercy on me, O Lord, have mercy. I am Lazarus too waiting at your door.

Order: **"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience and gentleness."** (1 Tim 6:11)

Directions: Have compassion for every needy man. Help anyone who needs your help. Give food to Christ among the hungry and the poor. **RSC.**

!!! TEACHING MINISTRY UPDATE !!!

NEW Teaching Schedules

Starting **August 13**, every 2nd Friday, after Praise & Worship
Venue: Rooms 5 and 6

Attendance: EVERYONE is invited, youth, adults, visitors.

Starting **August 20**, every 3rd & 4th Friday - Youth Teaching
after Praise & Worship

Starting **September 3**, teaching for Post LSS (LSS 1-9) and
Post ME (ME 1-10) members Venue: Rooms 1 and 5.