

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

OUR FAITH AND THE CROSS WITHIN US

Theme: We are open to the Father's will when we deny ourselves and take up our cross.

Word: Is 50:4c-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Order: "Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus." (Mk 8:34)

(BLD Global Community reflection for September 2009)

REFLECTION: Why do we call ourselves Christians? Is belief in the Triune God enough to be worthy of the name of Christ? In our walk with the Lord, oftentimes we encounter uncertainties, discouragements, doubts and problems. If we believe and have faith in God, why are we stumbling along the way? Why do we allow any blind spots to blur our vision of God's kingdom and his ways? Somebody once said that the problems of Christianity are the Christians themselves.

The prophet Isaiah clarifies how our faith in God should be manifested. He tells us how personal and individual our faith should be and the suffering that comes with it. He tells us to be totally trusting in God and giving

our absolute surrender to the will of the Father.

How do we demonstrate our faith in Jesus? Can we be saved and be justified by faith and grace alone?

Our Lord Jesus wants us to have a strong faith in Him and to live our lives in a manner that is pleasing to him. With God's grace comes faith. With faith comes love. With love comes action.

In the Gospel of Mark 8:34, Jesus said: *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."*

What is your cross in life? Is it your spouse? Is it your children? Is it your mother or your father? Is it your in-laws? Is it people around you? Is it your work and financial situation? The real cross that we have to carry and bury at the foot of his cross is our old self. Our pride, our arrogance, our anger, our judgmental attitudes, our untamed tongue, our self-righteous behavior, our performance-oriented ways, our dislikes and biased attitudes, and all those things we live by, that is not of Christ.

To truly work for our faith we need first to work on ourselves. Why? As we serve and follow Jesus most often, our old self comes on the way and blocks our relationship with God. This ungodly old self becomes an obstacle in working for our faith. It is imperative that to be authentic in our

servanthood in Christ we must deny our old self. As a new wine of God's creation, we should place ourselves in a new wine skin because we cannot sustain our faith with an old wine skin or the old way of life, otherwise, we may burst into something that is not of God. We should be able to rebuke our old self, the evil within us, to go beyond Christ in our service to him. We should be able to bury this cross and lay it at the foot of his cross.

Self-denial requires us to empty ourselves from thoughts, words, actions, and a mindset that is not of God. We must always be in the presence of God because we cannot do this on our own. If we are not in God, we become prisoners of ourselves. If we do not dwell in God, we tend to rely on ourselves. We must be aware of our shortcomings; and must be able to bear, endure and suffer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dying to one self is an ongoing process of conversion to be transformed in the image of Jesus.

Self love can and will take us away from our covenant with God. If we do not dwell in God, then we tend to dwell within ourselves and we get entangled in the bondage of our sinfulness. We need to change from within and be good witnesses to others, promote healthy faith in God and fraternally correcting each other in our family and in our community.

Let us all deny ourselves, take up our cross, work for our faith and only then can we truly follow Jesus. To effectively do this, we must soak ourselves in prayers and live the Sacred Scriptures. We should avail of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation regularly. We should receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, on Sunday and other holidays of obligations and if possible everyday of our earthly lives, for nothing is impossible with God. We must try to love one another as God has commanded us. Let us open our hearts to Jesus so He can move

and sanctify us into His ways. We must strive to be holy to be a child of God and follow Jesus, our Sovereign and Omnipotent God of all creations.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Demonstrate your faith in your works
2. Get out of your comfort zone and do corporal works of mercy
3. Practice prayer and fasting for the intentions of the poor

God's Promise for the Week

“Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it (Mk 8:35b)

September 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The **Nativity of Mary** is celebrated as a liturgical feast in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints on 8 September, nine months after the solemnity of her Immaculate Conception, celebrated on 8 December. The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

Quote: "Today the barren Anna claps her hands for joy, the earth radiates with light, kings sing their happiness, priests enjoy every blessing, the entire universe rejoices, for she who is queen and the Father's immaculate bride buds forth from the stem of Jesse"

Source:
<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1132>

September 12 - Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Eight days after the birth of the Blessed Virgin, her holy parents, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, inspired by God, gave her the name of Mary. The name Mary means *Lady*, and also *Star of the Sea*. Just to say her holy name is a prayer. It gives everyone who does so favor with God and power over the devil. Pope Innocent XI, beatified by the Catholic Church, set up the feast of the Holy Name of Mary in 1683, to thank her for the victory which the Catholic army under John Sobieski, King of Poland, gained over the Turks (Mohammedans), who were trying to sack Vienna and move in and conquer all the Catholics of the West. Mary's name occurs in the first part and in the second part of the *Hail Mary*. In the middle of the *Hail Mary*, one speaks the Holy Name of Jesus. Great apostles of the

Holy Name of Mary have been: Saint Anthony of Padua and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux says, "O most holy Virgin Mary, your name is so sweet and admirable that one cannot say it without becoming inflamed with love toward God and toward you." Another great apostle of the Holy Name of Mary is Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, her name sake.

The feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary began in Spain in 1513 and in 1671 was extended to all of Spain and the Kingdom of Naples. In 1683, John Sobieski, king of Poland, brought an army to the outskirts of Vienna to stop the advance of Muslim armies loyal to Mohammed IV in Constantinople. After Sobieski entrusted himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he and his soldiers thoroughly defeated the Muslims. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church.

Prayer

"Lord our God, when your Son was dying on the altar of the cross, he gave us as our mother the one he had chosen to be his own mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant that we who call upon the holy name of Mary, our mother, with confidence in her protection may receive strength and comfort in all our needs" Amen

Source: [Saints to Remember By the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)

Love Offering

Aug. 21, 2009 \$1,045.25
Aug. 28, 2009 \$ 705.11
Sept. 04, 2009 \$1,171.00
Sept. 07, 2009 \$ 941.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Community Calendar

Sept. 18-20, 2009

Singles Encounter No.4
Hilton Garden Inn
Dulles - North
22400 Flagstaff Plaza
Ashburn, Virginia 20148

Sept. 20, 2009

Joyous Celebration of Faith, Hope
and Love Concert by Carlos Ibay
4PM, OLV Church

Nov. 13-15, 2009

Marriage Encounter No. 10
Dulles Hilton, Dulles, Virginia

September Calendar

Sept. 04 Eucharistic Celebration

11 Praise & Worship
Romance w/o Regret
Excellence in Worship

18 Praise & Worship

18-20 Singles Encounter No. 4

20 Concert by Carlos Ibay

25 Praise & Worship

26 Growth in Prayer

CMP 1 Part 3
Teaching of Christ

27 Healing and Deliverance

Please check our website www.bldwashington.com
for 2009 Schedule of Events.

Teaching Schedule

Sept. 26, 2009

- Growth in Prayer

*LSS#9

9:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Cardinal McCarrick Center

12247 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20902

- CMP 1 Part 3

Body and Blood

Community

Service

*LSS8

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Cardinal McCarrick Center

12247 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20902

- Teaching of Christ

Modules 1 & 2

*Covenanted members

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Salazar Residence

8627 Hilltop Rd

Vienna, VA 22180

Sept. 27, 2009

Healing and Deliverance

*LSS7

12:00 - 4:00 PM

Cardinal McCarrick Center

12247 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Reminder: Please sign in and wear your BLD IDs during Praise & Worship
and Community Functions.