

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Solemnity of Christ the King

Theme: We have the righteousness of Christ when we testify to the truth of His kingship.

Word: Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 93:1-2, 5; Rev. 1:5-8, John 18:33b-37

Order: "Be a faithful witness like Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:5)

(BLD Global Community reflection for November 2009)

REFLECTION:

This Sunday, we are celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King and we are encouraged to contemplate Christ in His glorified state as King of all creation...*"the first born of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth...the Alpha and the Omega...the One Who is and Who was and Who is to come."* (Rev 1:5-7). This feast also reminds us that as members of Christ's body...we have a supernatural destiny to a Kingdom that "is not of this world" as Jesus said to Pilate: *"My kingdom does not belong to this world...as it is, my kingdom is not here."* (John 18:36).

Jesus came to reveal God's love for humanity. He came in a mysterious manner from the beginning of His earthly life until He rose again in glory...Scripture verses in

the Old and New Testament says that: *"The Son of Man coming amid the clouds was presented to God and received dominion, glory and kingship (Dn 7:13).....every eye will see Him even those who pierced Him.(Rev 1:7):"* However, Jesus was not recognized and received as the King that He was His kingship was rejected and mocked. People of old were looking for a person of royalty, pomp and glory for their Messiah. Jesus, the "lowly carpenter from Nazareth" was not the person they were looking for. They failed to see the kingly power in all the work that He has done before their very eyes. They did not understand that Jesus' kingdom is not about prestige, earthly power and authority, but it is a kingdom of humble service and obedience to the Voice of God.

There were kings and earthly royalty during Jesus' time on earth. But He gave no opposition to those in authority. In fact, when He was asked if paying census tax to Caesar was lawful or not, He said: *"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."* (Mark 12:17). Jesus spoke with such authority that people including Pilate were confounded by the way He answered something they had never heard before. His authority was more profound than any earthly power. They wondered: *"By what authority did He do all the things He had done...and who gave Him this authority?"* (Mt 21:23) It was only the good thief who recognized Jesus' kingly glory when he said: *"Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."* (Lk.

23:42). Would we have recognized Jesus Christ the King when He was being scourged and crucified? Who do we say Jesus is to us? Is He truly the King of our lives?

Each one of us is called to participate in the building of the kingdom of God...and we are to complete the work that God in Christ has begun in us. We are to participate in the restoration of a new kingdom that is full of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. We are called to bring to fulfillment the kingdom of God on earth. However, in order to accomplish this kingly mission, Christ must reign in our minds, in our wills and in our actions. We are admonished to serve in love and service for the glory of God and not for our own glory.

In our community, some of us are discerned and anointed to take on leadership responsibilities to accomplish the community's mission and vision while the rest of us are to support the smooth flow and success of planned activities. Whether we are the servant leaders or members of the support group we are reminded to always emulate the humility and servant-hood of Jesus. We are encouraged to lead our lives as renewed disciples and to live out the teachings that we have learned especially on "dying to self", humility, service, obedience and respect for authority.

All His earthly life, Jesus was an example of humility and obedience to the Father, an example of love and peace, of compassion and mercy. He is a Master meek and humble of heart who announced salvation to the poor and He desires for us to serve as He served. He said to the apostles in Lk. 22:27: "I am among you as the one who serves."...and He also said in Mk. 11:44-45: "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."

Father God Almighty, in Your compassionate love for us You have sent Your Only Begotten Son to come save us from eternal damnation. Help us to love Jesus as King of our life. Let Your Holy Spirit enlighten and guide us. Lead us to Jesus' path of righteousness. Keep us safe within the sheep-fold of the Good Shepherd. Help us to be good witnesses and emulate Jesus' humility and obedience, patience and understanding in the discharge of our responsibilities within the community, in our homes and workplaces. Help us to be still and listen to Your sweet small Voice. Grant us the wisdom to know Your Kingdom revealed in Jesus. Let this kingdom reign and rule in our lives! Amen.

Direction:

Testify to the truth and listen to His Voice.

God's Promise for the Week

"Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits Your house." (Psalm 93:5)

God's Victory Celebrated in ME10

At the conclusion of this past weekend's Marriage Encounter No. 10, it was very clear that the Lord had touched each and every one of the ten couples, not to mention the one young priest, who all attended the weekend encounter at the Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel in Dulles, VA. The exuberant smiles that shone through the tears, and the loving glances and embraces between the couples, more than testified to the beauty of the profoundly moving experience!

Congratulations to Tonypet & Lily Aldiosa, Robert & Lynn Bagtas, Danny & Malyn Eres, Mandy & Dolly Malata, Butch & Jean Mata, Robert & Elsa Palting, Michael & Connie Sheaver, Jojo & Susan Valdez, Don & Milette Varela, William & Ludi Yap, and Fr. Willie Jones Ducusin, who comprise ME#10. Jun & Lucy Pangilinan shall serve as ME#10 Class Shepherds.

Fr. Pete Literal was the weekend's sometimes serious, sometimes humorous, energized Spiritual Director, while Mel & Lolit Villegas and Aron & Marivic de

Castro served as the Presenting Couples who bared their victorious lives even as they emerged humbled by the experience.

The success of the weekend would not have been possible without the servant hearts of the sponsoring class, ME#9, their Class Shepherds, the auxies, and the intercessors who prayed both on-site and off-site. The Praise also wonderfully stepped up to the plate, providing both reflective and joyful music that was penetrating and at the same time inspirational. To God Be the Glory!



Newcomers to the Americas Immigrant Saints

by Vicky Hébert and Denis Sabourin

What relevance do the stories of a German priest (St. John Neumann) and two nuns—one Italian (St. Frances Xavier Cabrini), the other French (St. Mother Théodore Guérin), all immigrants—have for us living today? These pioneers crossed an ocean to work in the mission territory of the United States for the welfare of immigrants, elevating the importance of parochial education, building schools and churches, working to re-instill Catholic family virtues in the New World. The recounting of the obstacles these role models faced reads like a page from today's news. Their struggle is our own.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917)

Mother Cabrini was “cut from a different cloth.” She saw a problem and worked to solve it. The youngest in a family of 13, Maria Francesca was born in Sant’Angelo, Italy, in 1850. A delicate, obedient, shy, hardworking child, she was “precociously devout.” Her dearest dream was to join the religious order that educated her and, as a teacher, to be a missionary in the Far East. However, due to her small stature and presumed delicate health, she was repeatedly refused admission. Still, her resolve did not wane.

After Maria had made several requests to her bishop, he encouraged her to establish her own order of missionary sisters. After serving at a small orphanage, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The motto of the new congregation, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13), speaks volumes about her heroic trust in God.

Missionary zeal: In the seven years that followed, she and her sisters—with little or no means—founded missions, schools and hospitals. Now known as Mother Frances Xavier, later as Mother Cabrini, she went to Rome to meet Pope Leo XIII, from whom she secured solid financial backing as well as his personal approval.

The pope offered her the opportunity to fulfill her dream of becoming a missionary to a far-off land. He asked her to take her sisters to the United States to help the large numbers of Italian immigrants. These poor souls had left their homeland under the promise of a better life, only to find themselves in dire straits. Unable to speak the local language, they faced prejudice, fell victim to exploitation and were forced to live in overcrowded, disease-ridden tenements that became known as “Little Italies.” These people needed direction. They needed hope. They needed a miracle!

Upon arriving in New York City, Mother Cabrini was astonished when the accommodations and school she had been promised never materialized. Her embarrassed host, Archbishop Corrigan, even suggested that she and her companions return to Italy. But she was in the U.S. to stay.

Graced with phenomenal administrative abilities, she founded 67 institutions, all devoted to caring for children, the ill and those who live a marginalized existence. Houses were founded in Central and South America and Europe as well. Despite all manner of opposition and even the destruction of her convents in Central America through two revolutions, Mother Cabrini never gave up.

Courageous faith: Why do we want to know about this woman and her work? Her

story is an epic of hope; she is an encouraging saint in a time when people need encouragement. Mother Cabrini, who made over 30 ocean crossings yet never learned to swim, was desperately frightened of the water! Similar stories abound of her courageous voyages to help those in need. She believed that one served God by helping God's people, especially children. In an act of faith and patriotic love, at the age of 59, Mother Cabrini became a U.S. citizen.

On December 22, 1917, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago, died of pneumonia brought on by a recurrence of malaria. She was canonized in 1946. Her feast day is November 13.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is the first United States citizen to become a saint. In 1950, she was designated patroness of all immigrants.

Source:
<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/WST/ap0907.asp>



Love Offering

Oct. 23, 2009 \$ 704.00
Oct. 30, 2009 \$1,378.00
Nov. 06, 2009 \$ 937.00
Nov. 13, 2009 \$ 425.00
Nov. 15, 2009 \$1,119.00

Thank you for your generosity!

November Calendar

Nov. 06 1st Friday Eucharistic Celebration
08 The Teaching of Jesus Christ
Disciples' Assembly
13 Praise & Worship
13-15 Marriage Encounter No. 10
14 Don Moen Benefit Concert
20 Praise & Worship
21 Flashback to the 50' to 80's
27 Thanksgiving Mass (OLV Auditorium)

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

Reminder

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