

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Vigilant Waiting

Theme: We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when we abound in love for one another.

Word: Jer 3:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk: 21:25-28, 34-36

Order: “Strengthen your hearts to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones.” (1 Thes 3:13)

Promise: All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.” (Ps 25:10)

(BLD Global Community reflection for November 2009)

REFLECTION: This Sunday’s first reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah recalls our Lord’s promise of a Messiah to the house of Israel and Judah. “*The days are coming, says the Lord when I will fulfill the promise I made...I will raise up for David a just shoot; he will do what is right and just in the land.*” (Jer 33:14-15) It was approximately 637 years later, around 50 A.D. when St. Paul wrote the first letter to the Thessalonians. As time went on, the people were tempted to lose patience and hope that the promised One would come.

This was true during the time of Jeremiah in the first reading, the time of Paul in the second reading, and in the Gospel of Luke. This is also true during these times. When we are depressed with life’s tribulations, we are tempted to lose patience. We tend to forget and become complacent. In every generation, we seem to forget and take God’s promise less seriously. We need this season of Advent to be vigilant and to prepare for His coming anytime just as the Psalmist reminds us, “*Your ways O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and for you I wait all day.*” Ps 25:4-5.

In the second reading, St. Paul prays for the Christians of Thessalonica, who were waiting for Christ’s return during their lifetime. Many of them lost heart and were tired of waiting. St. Paul prays that that God may strengthen their hearts, so that they may be holy at the coming of our Lord Jesus. Many of us also need to be reminded not to lose patience and to continue living a blameless life, as we wait for the second coming. We can easily feel overwhelmed by the struggle to meet trials, afflictions and other worldly cares. When this happens, it is easy to miss out on the central meaning of Advent: that fallen, finite human beings can be lifted up to the throne of grace. Jesus came among us and freed us from sin, so that everything we do, even the most mundane task, can be lifted up to the infinite realm. Advent is a time of repentance, of

change of attitude, if necessary. We wait for Christ's renewed coming during Advent and in another perspective, His final coming, at that moment when God calls.

What should be our attitude while waiting? Thessalonians 4:1 says, "...*how you should conduct yourself to please God,*" to be found "*blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones.*" (Thes 3:13) "We have been guided in His truth and instructed by the One who "*teaches the humble His way...The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear Him and His covenant for their instructions.*" (Ps 25:9, 14) And we fear Him, so we receive His instructions. Let us continue to "*increase and abound in love for one another.*" (Thes 3: 12) Let not the sums of our good works diminish, but let us strengthen our hearts, let our justice increase and let the good that we do for Him, increase and abound.

The gospel portends of terrifying events on the Day when He comes again. "*People will die in fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*" (Lk 21:26) All will be passing away and shall soon be no more. The nations will look, but they will not see the things they trusted so vainly. Only "*...the Son of Man coming in the cloud with power and great glory*" (Lk 21:27) will be known; He will be all that would be seen. And will we recognize Him? And will He recognize us?

Brothers and Sisters, let us heed our Lord's own words, "*Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.*"(Lk 21:36) Let us wait expectantly with patient endurance for our Lord's second coming.

Direction: Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Lord by living a life of prayer and by sharing your blessings with others.

Dinner Dance – Message from DCS

What an awesome God we have! Once again, He showed us that nothing is impossible when we call upon His Holy Name! He is indeed our Sustainer and Provider of all good things. His gracious Presence and tender Blessings were abundant during the dinner dance fundraising event this past weekend.

On a perfect Saturday fall evening, more than 150 BLD members, their families, and friends gathered at the Ft. Myer Community Center to enjoy an evening of fellowship, camaraderie, and contagious laughter.

There were abundant food, wonderful prizes, and continuous lively music, where everyone enjoyed dancing to an energetic beat. Truly, each one had a beautiful smile on his/her face, and it was rather sad when the evening had to come to an end.

This event, of course, could not have been possible without the coordinating efforts of many. Our deepest gratitude goes to our beloved fundraising committee members, who worked with such passion and determination, from the preparation to the culmination of this event. Kudos to all of you for a job excellently done!

We give thanks also to each one of our beloved members, who came with their families and friends, as well as to all those who purchased and sold raffle tickets. We thank our generous donors for the wonderful prizes and to our brothers and sisters from Mabuhay who joined us in this fundraising effort. And not to forget our very own highly and professionally entertaining emcees, our very own Elvis, our "official" photographer, our DJ, the caterers, and the Fort Myer staff with whom we dealt with.

Many thanks to all who came in beautiful 50's-80's attires, and warm congratulations to our two adult and one youth "Best Attire,"

as well as all our raffle ticket prize winners. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, everyone ... your sincere, joyful, positive, servant hearts are very much appreciated by our Lord, as well as by our wonderful community!

In the Gospel reading on the day of the event, Luke proclaimed that ... "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive." Lk 20:37-38 Indeed, our ever-loving and generous God was in the midst of us all throughout the event, as everyone truly enjoyed a delightful evening, and reveled in His Graces and abundant Blessings!

And we echo Daniel's Praise, in today's Responsorial Psalm: "Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. And blessed is Your Holy and Glorious Name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages." Daniel 3:52

GLORY AND PRAISE FOR EVER!

November 26

Thanksgiving Should Be a Verb

Sometimes it's easier to think of all the bad things—bombings, murders, illness, misfortune—in the world than the good things. But we must realize that there are good things, even in difficult times, for which we can give thanks.

For example, Anne Frank, the young girl whose diary put a face on the Holocaust, demonstrated her ability to give thanks for the simplest of things: "I do not think of all the misery, but of the glory that remains. Go outside into the fields, nature and the sun, go out and seek happiness in yourself and in God. Think of the beauty that again and again discharges itself within and without you and be happy." Anne Frank was able to

realize that, despite her own desperate situation and the fact that she could not venture out of the attic apartment, there were still things for which she could be thankful.

Now think back to the first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims endured death, disease and numerous hardships in their quest for freedom. The Pilgrims, being unfamiliar with the New World, knew little of how to grow the crops for food that they so desperately needed. The Native Americans showed them how to grow and harvest the necessary crops. The Pilgrims, given what they had been through, could have taken that knowledge and run with it, without giving a second thought to the graciousness of the Native Americans. Instead, the Pilgrims invited them to share in their bounty as a way of expressing their thanks.

And so as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us reflect on our reasons to be thankful and resolve ourselves to give thanks—both in word and in action—even after our Thanksgiving celebration is over.

Combining the Sacred and the Secular

The Thanksgiving holiday, although particularly American in its celebration, contains many counterparts throughout the world and religious spectrum. In Judaism, for example, Sukkot is the fall celebration of thanksgiving to God for the bounty of the earth.

For Catholics, the act of thanksgiving is at the very heart of our celebrations and beliefs. Every time we share in the Eucharist (which means thanksgiving, gratitude), we thank God for the gifts God has given us.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says it well: "The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption

and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all ‘thanksgiving’(#1360).

Every time we gather for Eucharist, we celebrate the promise of the living Christ through Jesus’ resurrection, but how many of us live out that promise throughout the year? How many of us take the thanksgiving of the Eucharist and make it active in our lives outside Mass?

Mother Teresa’s death was a sorrowful occasion for the world over. We mourn for our loss and praise her for her work. But the irony is that Mother Teresa considered herself blessed to be able to minister to the poor. She gave thanks for the opportunity God had given her to work with the orphaned, the crippled, the sick, the dying and all those who were unwanted or unloved. To Mother Teresa, they were Jesus in disguise.

She once said, “You have to be holy in your position as you are, and I have to be holy in the position that God has put me. So it is nothing extraordinary to be holy. Holiness is not the luxury of the few. Holiness is a simple duty for you and for me. We have been created for that.”

Do we give thanks for opportunities presented to us through which we can praise God? Do we recognize the “Mother

Terasas” of our own communities and give them our thanks and support?

Source:<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Nov1997/Editorial.asp>

Love Offering

Nov. 06, 2009 \$ 937.00
Nov. 13, 2009 \$ 425.00
Nov. 15, 2009 \$1,119.00
Nov. 20, 2009 \$ 962.00

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

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.



**A BLESSED AND
HAPPY
THANKSGIVING TO
ALL**