

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

Sincerity

Theme: We are open to the Father's will when we minister with no partiality in doing His work.

Word: *Jesus' saving grace is upon those who are open to the Father's will.*

(BLD Global Community reflection for September 2009)

REFLECTION: The Theme for the week is: **“We are open to the Father's will when we minister with no partiality in doing His work.”** St. James admonishes us not to give preferential treatment to the affluent while looking at the poor with a condescending attitude. In the Gospel, Jesus showed no partiality. With compassion, He ministered and healed a deaf man who had a speech impediment. If we want to follow the Will of the Father, we should minister sincerely and with no bias to any one that God brings to us regardless of his stature or position in life.

We have to do the work of Jesus by up building one another, our community, and the Greater Church. In 1991, the **Second Plenary Council of the Phils. (PCP II)** was held. One of the Decrees the Council made, was the call for all of us to be the **Church of the Poor**, a term used by the late Pope John II. In the light of the readings

and of the call of our Lord Jesus Christ to be on mission, we need to review the decree. **PCP II** says that the term **“Church of the Poor”** does not mean that the Church includes only the materially poor and there is no place in the Church for those who are not. For the Church must, like her Savior, embrace everyone of every economic class. It means a Church that embraces and practices the evangelical spirit of poverty, which combines detachment from possessions with profound trust in the Lord as the sole source of salvation. While the Lord does not want anyone to be materially poor, He wants His followers to be “poor in spirit.” The **“Church of the Poor”** is one whose members and leaders have a special love for the poor. This special love is a love of preference for the poor. It is not an exclusive or excluding love in such a way that there is no room in a Christian's heart for those who are not poor. For always, the Christian's heart must love all persons whether just or unjust and must have room in the heart even for an enemy. Christ was able to love well-to-do people like Zaccheus and the family of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. It is one where, the very least of the poor are not discriminated against because of their poverty, and they will not be deprived of their “right to receive in abundance the help of the spiritual goods of the Church, especially that of the Word of God and the sacraments from the pastors. It means that the pastors and other Church leaders will give preferential attention and time to those who are poor, and will

**September 3 - St. Gregory the Great
Patron Saint of Teachers**

generously share their own resources in order to alleviate their poverty and make them recognize the love of the Lord for them despite their poverty. It is one that will be in solidarity with the poor. It will collaborate with the poor themselves and with others to lift up the poor from their poverty. It will also mean that the Church will not only evangelize the poor, but that the poor in the Church will themselves become evangelizers. Pastors and leaders will learn to be with, work with, and learn from the poor. They will not cherish in their hearts ambition for titles and honors but the words of Jesus in their hearts, ***“The greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; whoever humbles himself will be exalted”***. (Mt. 23:11-12) Rather, they will live simply in order to share what they have with the needy. They will follow the example of Christ, and thus set an example for others. (PCP II 122-136) For the Promise of the Week says: ***“God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him.”***

(Jas 2:5)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit for guidance in ministering to others.
2. Be open to criticism, correction, or affirmation.
3. Minister to the needs of others by listening.

God’s Promise for the Week

“God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him.” (Jas 2: 5)

The exact date of St. Gregory's birth is uncertain, but is usually estimated to be around the year 540 in the city of Rome. Gregory had been born into a wealthy noble Roman family with close connections to the church. Gregory's great-great-grandfather had been Pope Felix III, but that pope was the nominee of the Gothic king. Gregory's father's three sisters were nuns. Gregory's mother Silvia herself is a saint. On his father's death, he converted his family *villa suburbana*, into a monastery dedicated to the apostle Saint Andrew. Gregory himself entered as a monk.

Gregory was the prefect of Rome before he was 30. After five years in office he resigned, founded six monasteries on his Sicilian estate and became a Benedictine monk in his own home at Rome.

Ordained a priest, he became one of the pope's seven deacons, and also served six years in the East as papal representative in Constantinople. He was recalled to become abbot, and at the age of 50 was elected pope by the clergy and people of Rome.

He was direct and firm. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and the victims of plague and famine. He was very concerned about the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his own monastery. He is known for his reform of the liturgy, for strengthening respect for doctrine. Whether he was largely responsible for the revision of "Gregorian" chant is disputed.

Gregory lived in a time of perpetual strife with invading Lombards and difficult relations with the East. When Rome itself was under attack, he interviewed the Lombard king.

An Anglican historian has written: "It is impossible to conceive what would have been the confusion, the lawlessness, the chaotic state of the Middle Ages without the medieval papacy; and of the medieval papacy, the real father is Gregory the Great."

His book, *Pastoral Care*, on the duties and qualities of a bishop, was read for centuries after his death. He described bishops mainly as physicians whose main duties were preaching and the enforcement of discipline. In his own down-to-earth preaching, Gregory was skilled at applying the daily gospel to the needs of his listeners. Called "the Great," Gregory has been given a place with Augustine, Ambrose and Jerome as one of the four key doctors of the Western Church.

Comment:

Gregory was content to be a monk, but he willingly served the Church in other ways when asked. He sacrificed his own preferences in many ways, especially when he was called to be Bishop of Rome. Once he was called to public service, Gregory gave his considerable energies completely to this work.

Quote:

"Perhaps it is not after all so difficult for a man to part with his possessions, but it is certainly most difficult for him to part with himself. To renounce what one has is a minor thing; but to renounce what one is, that is asking a lot" (St. Gregory, *Homilies on the Gospels*).

Source:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1441>



Tomb of St. Gregory at St. Peter's, Rome

Holy Father's Prayer Intention
September 2009

GENERAL: That the word of God may be better known, welcomed and lived as the source of freedom and joy.

MISSION: That Christians in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, who often meet with great difficulties, may not be discouraged from announcing the Gospel to their brothers, trusting in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Love Offering

Aug. 14, 2009 \$ 890.00
Aug. 21, 2009 \$1,045.25
Aug. 28, 2009 \$ 705.11
Sept. 04, 2009 \$1,171.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Reminder

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

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. 11, 2009

Romance w/o Regret (Make-up)

*Youth/John 6
8:00 - 10:30 PM
OLV

- Excellence in Worship

8Youth
8:00 - 10:00 PM
OLV

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 property
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