

BLD WASHINGTON



# BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsels

### Pentecost – Healing and Counseling

**Word:** Acts 2: 1-11; Psalm 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12: 3-7; John 20: 19-23

**Theme:** We have God's own heart when we exercise our spiritual gifts for healing and wholeness of others.

**Order:** Receive the Holy Spirit

On Sunday, the Holy Mother Church celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost, the event which occurred 50 days after Easter when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and Mary, firmly establishing the Church and invigorating the Apostles with the zeal to proclaim the Gospel to the farthest ends of the earth.

On the day of Pentecost, Christ sent the Holy Spirit in the form of roaring wind and tongues of fire, upon the apostles and disciples who assembled in fear in the upper room. It was a spectacular event with an inexplicable effect on the disciples... *"All were filled with the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:4). "Strong driving wind" and "tongues as of fire"—these are powerful images which express a powerful experience! The Scriptures lead us to believe that prior to Pentecost the disciples of Jesus huddled together behind the locked doors. Yet, after Pentecost the disciples' behavior changed dramatically; the apostles preached boldly. They received the power and strength to set off to the world to preach the good news. It was the presence of the risen Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit that changed everything; those who were in fear are given peace, those locked in a room are sent out. Without Pentecost, our hearts and lives would be like that of the disciples in this Sunday's Gospel "...locked for fear."

We celebrate this Sunday a wondrous and unprecedented gift of God—"the Spirit of truth." The Spirit enables us to live with one another in a new way: with "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

generosity," (second reading). The Spirit helps us to engage with the world in a new way: we "testify" (gospel) to the "mighty acts of God (first reading) through the very way that we live. The truth God gives transforms us and, through us, transforms the world.

This Pentecost commemoration does not simply recall a past event, but celebrates what God is doing within us now. In baptism each of us received the Spirit; that is our Pentecost. The Spirit is not something we have, is not a possession. The Spirit dwells within us as divine life, enabling us to be faithful and true disciples. The Spirit is given for the sake of mission: to proclaim the gospel ("you also testify"), to be molded as disciples ("the Spirit...will guide you to all truth"), and, ultimately, to worship ("glorify me"). The indwelling of the Spirit is a continual Pentecost so that everyone can hear the "mighty acts of God" (first reading) and thus bring glory to God.

The Feast of the Pentecost calls us to act and be strong witnesses to the Word that others may see, hear and understand. Jesus said in today's Gospel "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Our calling as a covenant community is to build communities of disciples of Jesus Christ through Eucharistic celebrations, weekly worships, programs of Marriage Encounters, Family Encounters, Singles & Solo Parents Encounters, Youth Encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars, supported with teachings for Spiritual growth, retreats, pastoral care and missions, and fellowship with one another. But we can't do all of these things alone. The good news is that we don't have to do it alone; God is with us. We are carried by the Holy Spirit of God, the same Spirit that the Heavenly Father promised to send as our Advocate. The Holy Spirit is our strength, our guide, our inspiration, our comfort and our teacher. It is the Holy Spirit and the sharing of our individual spiritual gifts for the common good that hold us up.

Brothers and sisters, like the disciples who gathered themselves in the upper room, let us recall the

marvelous event of Pentecost. Let us invite Jesus to come into our hearts and become the Lord of our life and ask Him to let the power of the Holy Spirit flow through us. Through Christ in the Spirit, we have become a new creation, and we have joined in the Spirit's work of building our world, of building our community.

This Pentecost solemnity brings to a climax the fifty-day celebration of Easter. But we must be careful not to put away our Easter joy too quickly. Pentecost may be the end of the Easter season, but it is also a celebration of the beginning of our new life in Christ. Rather than our Alleluias being over, they are just beginning! They bear fruit in the practical ways in our life that we "renew the face of the earth." Thus, brothers and sisters, go forth!

Next week, we will return to Ordinary Time. By the grace of God, let us resolve to live in the Spirit, sanctifying our work and leisure in our day-to-day living. Let us entrust ourselves to the Blessed Mother, who literally witnessed the amazing transformation in the lives of her Son's apostles.

**Directions:** As God's disciples, let us be sensitive to members of our family, among our friends, people in our workplace, in our church or in our community who might be needing healing and let us be ready to use our spiritual gifts for their wholeness.

**God's Promise for the Week**

*"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." (Ps 104: 30)*

**June Calendar**

June 5	Eucharistic Celebration
6	Agony in the Garden/ Washing of the Feet Retreat (St. Raphael)
12	Praise & Worship
19	Praise & Worship
26	Praise & Worship

Please check our website [www.bldwashington.com](http://www.bldwashington.com) for 2009 Schedule of Events.

**Teaching Schedule:**

June 6, 2009

- Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat for LSS#7 invitees, as well as older graduates who have yet to attend this very important and uplifting retreat. The retreat will be held on Saturday, June 6, from 9 AM-4 PM at St. Raphael Church.
- Venue: St. Raphael, Potomac, Md.

June 27, 2009

**Community Calendar:**

August 9, 2009 - Community Day

Bretton Woods, Germantown, Maryland

September 18-20, 2009 – Singles Encounter No.4

Homewood Suites, Dulles, Virginia

November 14-16, 2009 – Marriage Encounter No. 10

Dulles Hilton, Dulles, Virginia

**Love Offering**

May 1, 2009	.....	\$1,022.00
May 3, 2009	.....	\$1,149.00
May 8, 2009	.....	\$ 803.00
May 15, 2009	.....	\$1,085.00
May 22, 2009	.....	\$ 926.00