

BLD WASHINGTON



# BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsels

### The Servant of All

**Theme:** We are open to the Father's will when we defer to one another in humble service.

**Word:** Wis 2:12,17-20; Ps 54:3-6,8;  
Jas 3:16 – 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

**Order:** "Anyone who wishes to be first shall be the last of all and servant of all." (Mk 9:35)

*(BLD Global Community reflection for September 2009)*

**REFLECTION:** In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus turns the social ranking system upside down when He says: "*Anyone who wishes to be first shall be the last of all and servant of all.*" (Mk 9:35). He told this to His disciples after He knew that the disciples were discussing who was the greatest among them. To Jesus, those who hold the highest positions must be willing to take the lowest place. And to further demonstrate what He meant, Jesus took a child, placed it in the midst of them, put his arms around it and said to them: "*Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the one who sent me.*" (Mk. 9:37)

In Jesus' time, a child, like servants, was a non-person, someone the world overlooked

or ignored. Children neither had legal rights nor social status. Children were symbols for anyone of lowly status that was helplessly in need. They represented the weakest and most vulnerable. Why did Jesus use the example of a child as a model for his disciples to follow? Because a child is direct and sincere; a child rushes in where angels fear to tread; a child is unembarrassed asking and answering any kind of question; a child will remain loyal and honest. The child in us must live for us to be a disciple of Jesus.

The second reading from the letter of James describes at length the childlike qualities that are expected of Jesus' disciples. St. James calls these characteristics the good fruit of divine wisdom: pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. While these are the qualities of a child, St. James and the Book of Wisdom in the first reading are in agreement that they are possessed by the adult. Without the good fruit of divine wisdom, the adult will turn into a monster guilty of conflicts, disputes, wars, murder, envy, quarreling, and fights. Without the fruit of righteousness, the adult will resort to "all kinds of vile behavior" that are hideous consequences of jealousy and strife, of covetousness and self ambition.

The message of this Sunday readings is so powerful because it is real. And it is not hard for any of us to put ourselves in this scenerio. Who amongst us does not wrestle

with ego and become competitive even among friends, even with siblings, or our co-workers in the Community that we serve? If the disciples of Jesus during His time on earth thought about greatness, or who was the most important among them, how can we be different?

For example, it is not hard for any community member to think that being a DSL or a member of the DCS or Tri-cord or Core Group or Ministry Coordinator could be a position of honor and power? And as such it could blind any one assuming that position to lord it over others who are in a lesser or no position. It is a very possible occurrence because of the likelihood that what triggered the disciples of Jesus to think of who was the greatest among them was their proximity to Jesus - the Teacher, the Master, the Messiah, the Son of God – thus making them arrogant and power-hungry. Instead of using responsibility, influence and power to relieve suffering and inspire greatness in others, they fell into the trap of using them to elevate themselves. It is also not impossible for any of us to feel envious or jealous of others who are “in position of honor” so that if mixed with selfish ambition, as St. James wrote, that it could result to “disorder and every foul practice” in a community. The most stubborn obstacle to Christian living is the ego.

It is for this reason that Jesus taught us how to be truly great: to be the last of all and the servant of all. Also by identifying Himself with a child, Jesus sows what He Himself is, without pretense: The Lord and Master certainly, but as one who serves. Following Him means we need to be humble, obedient and teachable, as He was. As His present-day disciples through the BLD Community, we must conduct ourselves in the same manner and rejoice at being welcomed as lowly person, not seeking to cut an impressive figure or to assert ourselves. To

follow Jesus is to bend down to our brethren, to be ready to die to ourselves a thousand pieces, to be everything to every one in the hope of saving some, to undervalue nothing that pertains to Christ.

As the servants of all are entrusted with a function we must consider ourselves and be considered by others “servants of Christ”, stewards of the mysteries of God,” of whom it is required that we be found trustworthy. (1 Cor. 4:1-2). This responsibility entails duties, but does not give any right to material advantages or honors. (1 Tim. 3:1)

***DIRECTIONS:***

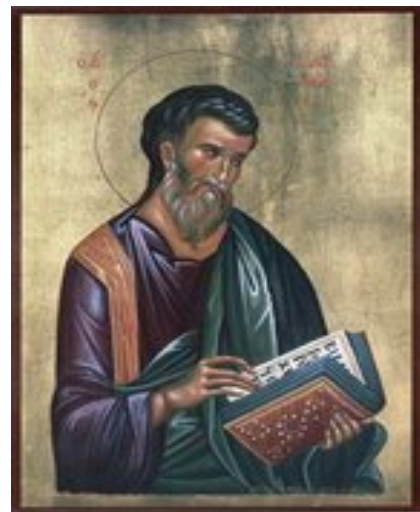
1. Free yourself from jealousy and self-ambition as you serve the Lord.
2. Let the fruit of the Holy Spirit be made manifest in your works.

***God's Promise for the Week***

***“God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life.” (Ps 54:6)***

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***Sept. 21 - St. Matthew, the Apostle***



Matthew's name was originally Levi. Matthew was given his name by Our Lord Himself. Matthew means *Gift of God*. He was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the "taxfarmers" got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as "publicans," were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with "sinners" (see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers.

Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that "many" tax collectors and "those known as sinners" came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus' answer was, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important.

Matthew was the author of the first Gospel. This Gospel is in many ways the most glorious revelation ever made by God. Matthew was martyred while celebrating Mass. His body was later taken to the town of Salerno in Italy. It is kept there now in a church dedicated to his name.

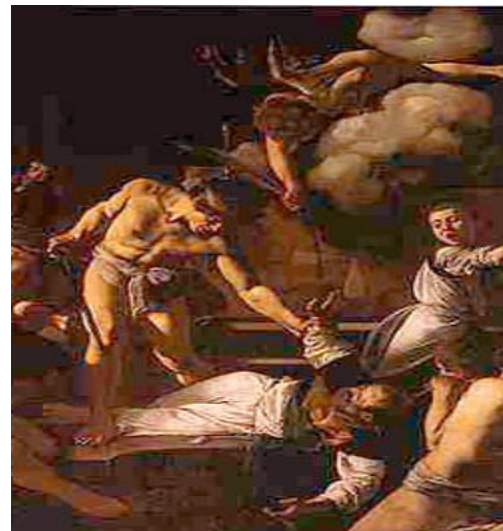
**Comment:** From such an unlikely situation, Jesus chose one of the foundations of the Church, a man others, judging from his job, thought was not holy enough for the position. But he was honest enough to admit that he was one of the sinners Jesus came to call. He was open enough to recognize truth when he saw him. "And he got up and followed him" (Matthew 9:9b).

**Quote:** We imagine Matthew, after the terrible events surrounding the death of Jesus, going to the mountain to which the risen Lord had summoned them. "When they saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them [we think of him looking at each one in turn, Matthew listening and excited with the rest], 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:17-20).

Matthew would never forget that day. He proclaimed the Good News by his life and by his word. Our faith rests upon his witness and that of his fellow apostles.

**Patron Saint of:** Accountants, Bankers, Bookkeepers, Tax collectors

Source: <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1145>



The Martyrdom of St. Matthew

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**Love Offering**

Aug. 28, 2009 \$ 705.11  
Sept. 04, 2009 \$1,171.00  
Sept. 07, 2009 \$ 941.00  
Sept. 18, 2009 \$1,216.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

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**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

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**Community Calendar**

Nov. 13-15, 2009  
Marriage Encounter No. 10  
Dulles Hilton, Dulles, Virginia  
Nov. 21, 2009  
Dinner Dance – BLD Annual Fund  
Raising Event

Please check our website [www.bldwashington.com](http://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  
- The Teaching of Jesus Christ  
Modules 1 & 2  
\*Covenanted members  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
Salazar's home  
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.