

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

The Blessed Trinity

Word: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22;
Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

Theme: Blessed are we when we observe and teach
God's statutes and commandments.

Order: *"Teach them to observe all that I have
commanded you"* (Mt 25:20)

Promise: *"You must keep his statutes and
commandments that I enjoin you today, that you may
have long life on the land which the Lord, your God,
is giving you forever."* (Dt 4:0B)

(BLD Global Community reflection for June 2009)

In the Gospel, Jesus commands His disciples, *"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 ..."* (Mt 28:19). This verse is the only passage in the Bible in which the Three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity are named so close to one another and in a sacramental context. In fact, this "baptismal formula" continues to be used since the first century.

In his account of Jesus' own baptism, St. Mark speaks of the existence of the Blessed Trinity, *"And when Jesus came out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven saying, 'You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you.'"* (Mk 1: 10-11)

And in his final greeting to the church in Corinth, St Paul also refers to the Blessed Trinity, *"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."* (2 Cor 13:13)

Although these Bible passages talk of the Blessed Trinity, we cannot fully comprehend the mystery of the Blessed Trinity in this life. Therefore,

rather than asking this question for which we have no answer, let us ask ourselves: "What have the Three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – done for us?" It is when we ask ourselves this question that the Blessed Trinity becomes a reality – a reality that all of us have encountered. The love and compassion, the blessings and the saving deeds of the Holy Trinity are not things of the past that we just read in the Bible but are present-day occurrences we feel and experience.

The Love of the Blessed Trinity

We all remember our LSS baptism, when we went in front of the Father and asked for His mercy and forgiveness, when we acknowledged Jesus Christ, His Son, as our Savior and Redeemer, and when we received the Holy Spirit and experienced the fruit of the Spirit.

Indeed, we nurture a life-giving relationship with each of the Three Divine Persons, when we received and continue to receive God's love. And we receive this love not because of our own merit, but solely because of the Father's love. *"See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children, and we really are."* (1 Jn 3:1) And as the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we dare call God "Abba, Father", the same intimate way Jesus Himself addresses His Father.

St. Paul in his letter to the Christians of Rome explicitly confirms our being "children of God". He writes, *"Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom you cry, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ..."* (Rom 8:14-16)

The Demands of Being Children of God

Through baptism we became children of the eternal Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and sacred abodes of the Holy Spirit. But what do all these mean?

This means that our daily life has to be in keeping with our being "children of God".

Everything in us – our thought and attitudes, our words and actions – should be living testimonies to the reality of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in our life. The readings for the four Sundays of June show us what are demanded of us as “children of God”.

In the first reading, Moses exhorts the Israelites who fled from Egypt, as well as sojourners like us, *“You must keep his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you today ...”* (Dt 4:40a) In the Gospel, Jesus commands His eleven disciples, as well as His present-day disciples like us, *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you ...”* (Mt 28:19-20) As children of God we are to love God above all and to love our neighbors. We are to witness with our words and deeds how to love God and our neighbors. Truly, we are blessed as children of God *when we observe and teach God’s statutes and commandments.*

St. John's exhortation to all early Christians refers to the Three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity, *“We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God’s commandments live in fellowship with him and he in them. And we know he lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.”* (1Jn 3: 23-24) Indeed, our relationship with the Blessed Trinity should result in a permanent transformation of our very being. The Blessed Trinity is our means to the heavenly Kingdom where we belong as children of God. Amen.

Directions:

- Be a living witness in words and action not only in the Community, but more so in your own family, in your neighborhood and in your work place.
- Live transformed lives and be worthy to be called children and heirs of God.

Agony in the Garden/Washing of the Feet Retreat

Last Saturday marked another Teaching Ministry sponsored Agony in the Garden Retreat. The retreat started with a morning praise and worship, and was guided by the gentle teaching hand of our spiritual director, Fr. Francis Alves. Brothers and sisters in the community shared their experiences of carrying their own crosses in life, only to be redeemed by the Lord’s everlasting mercy and power. Sharers also revealed ways in which they had encountered Christ within the community. On more than one occasion, sharers gave witness to how the BLD community

brought them closer to God and aided their spiritual journey. The participants were visibly moved by the courage and humility their brothers and sisters in the community displayed, as they bared many of their poignant life experiences to reveal God’s saving love and glory. The retreat ended with the community reaching out to each other with apparent servant hearts, and a renewed resolve to be followers of Christ. To God be the glory forever!

June Calendar

- June 5 Eucharistic Celebration
6 Agony in the Garden/
Washing of the Feet Retreat
12 Praise & Worship
19 Praise & Worship
26 Praise & Worship

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

Community Calendar

- June 26-28, 2009
- National Convention of Filipino
Catholic Charismatic Communities
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland
- August 9, 2009
- Community Day
Bretton Woods
Germantown, Maryland
- September 18-20, 2009
- Singles Encounter No.4
Homewood Suites, Dulles, Virginia
- November 13-15, 2009
- Marriage Encounter No. 10
Dulles Hilton, Dulles, Virginia

Love Offering

May 15, 2009	\$1,085.00
May 22, 2009	\$ 926.00
May 29, 2009	\$ 854.00
June 5, 2009	\$1,169.00

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