

BLD WASHINGTON



# BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsels

### PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF THE FATHER

**Word:** Ez. 2:2-5; Ps 123:1-2.2, 3-4; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6

**Order:** “Son of man, I am sending you to rebels who have rebelled against me...” (Ez 2:3)

**Theme:** We partake in Christ’s prophetic mission when we endure hardships, persecutions and constraints.

**Promise:** “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor 12:9)

*(BLD Global Community reflection for July 2009)*

The month of July covers the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Ordinary Time. On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Sundays, the first readings recount the call to Ezekiel and Amos, respectively, as prophets of God. A prophet is one who speaks in the name of God; God’s spokesman. Ezekiel was sent to his compatriots, a people, “hard of face and obstinate of heart,” during the Babylonian exile. He was told to preach the message to them whether they “heed or resist.” He reproached the Israelites for their sins, past and present, which eventually led to the destruction of Jerusalem. In contrast, Amos was a shepherd who denounced Israel for injustice and idolatry.

The Gospel readings on the other hand narrate the rejection of Jesus while preaching in his own hometown, and his sending out the twelve disciples with instructions not to take along any provisions for the journey. The following 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus invites the twelve to take a rest. On the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday, the people acclaim Jesus as the prophet who is to come after the miraculous multiplication of bread and fish.

Speaking on vocation and the mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the world, the late Pope John Paul II exhorts the lay faithful to share in the prophetic mission of Christ. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* he says, “*Through the participation in the prophetic mission of Christ, who proclaimed the Kingdom of His Father by the testimony of His life and by the Power of His Word, the lay faithful are given the ability and responsibility to accept the Gospel in faith and to proclaim it in word and deed, without hesitating to courageously identify and denounce evil.*” United in Christ, the ‘great prophet’ (Lk 7:16), and in the Spirit made “witnesses” of the Risen Christ, the lay faithful are made sharers in the appreciation of the Church’s supernatural faith, that “*cannot err in matters of belief*” and sharers as well in the grace of the Word.” (Acts 2:17-18; Rev 19:10) They are also called to allow the newness and the power of the gospel to shine forth everyday in their family and social life, as well as to express patiently and courageously, in the contradiction of the present age, their future glory even” through the framework of their secular life.” (P 31-32)

St. Paul encounters the same problems as Ezekiel, and like Ezekiel, suffers for Christ. Jesus was rejected by his own people in His own hometown. As we share in the prophetic mission of Christ, we should persevere in witnessing to the Word of God in word and in deed, whether convenient or not. We have the promise of the week to rely on: “*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*” (2 Cor 12:9)

### Directions:

1. Develop and intensify a deeper relationship with God through regular confession, daily Communion, regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and daily reflection on His word.
2. Continue our work of evangelization in bringing awareness of God’s faithfulness to His people, especially the poor.
3. Reinvigorate pastoral care program.

### July Calendar

- July 3 Eucharistic Celebration  
10 Praise & Worship  
17 Praise & Worship  
24 Praise & Worship  
25 New Creation Realities  
Christian Maturity Program 1 (Part 2)  
31 Praise & Worship

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

### Teaching Schedule

July 25, 2009

- NEW CREATION REALITIES  
(for LSS#9 & older) 9 AM - 12 NN  
Cardinal McCarrick Center Room 2/3  
12247 Georgia Avenue,  
Silver Spring, MD 20902
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY PROGRAM 1- Part 2  
(for LSS#8 & older) 1 PM - 4 PM  
Cardinal McCarrick Center Room 2/3  
12247 Georgia Avenue,  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

### Community Calendar

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

June 12, 2009 \$ 788.00  
June 19, 2009 \$1,050.00  
June 26, 2009 \$ 957.00  
July 03, 2009 \$1,277.00

Thank you for your generosity!

## July 3

### St. Thomas the Apostle

Poor Thomas! He made one remark and has been branded as “Doubting Thomas” ever since. But if he doubted, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: “My Lord and My God!” (see John 20:24-28) and, in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. He also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all later Christians: “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29).

Thomas should be equally well known for his courage. Perhaps what he said was impetuous—since he ran, like the rest, at the showdown—but he can scarcely have been insincere when he expressed his willingness to die with Jesus. The occasion was when Jesus proposed to go to Bethany after Lazarus had died. Since Bethany was near Jerusalem, this meant walking into the very midst of his enemies and to almost certain death. Realizing this, Thomas said to the other apostles, “Let us also go to die with him” (John 11:16b).

#### Quote:

“...Prompted by the Holy Spirit, the Church must walk the same road which Christ walked: a road of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice to the death.... For thus did all the apostles walk in hope. On behalf of Christ's Body, which is the Church, they supplied what was wanting in the sufferings of Christ by their own trials and sufferings (see Colossians 1:24)” (*Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity*, 5).

#### Source:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintOfDay/default.asp?id=1433>