

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

COMPASSION

Theme: We partake in Christ's prophetic mission when we seek and gather the lost.

Word: Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mt 6:30-34

Order: Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while (Mk 6:31)

Promise: *"I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing."* (Jer 23:4)

(BLD Global Community reflection for July 2009)

REFLECTION:

God the Father, who loved us so much, sent His only son Jesus who ultimately suffered and died on the cross to save us. He spent his whole lifetime in healing the sick, teaching, comforting the afflicted, and performing miracles. Yes, he did care for us!

Like the Good Shepherd, Jesus commissioned ordinary people to continue His work. People followed them everywhere because they wanted to hear what Jesus and His disciples had to say. People hungered for instruction- good people who are searching for directions. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; the unemployed; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people in debilitating conditions; people who are angry and confused because they believe that the church is no longer dependable. They are people looking for answers and purpose and meaning of their lives. They long for the love and security a Good Shepherd brings.

To whom do we go for guidance? There are so many voices that claim to have the answer; how do we know which one to follow? A good Shepherd put the needs of others come before his own. Reliable Shepherds walk with us in the dark valleys. They are willing to share the dangers through which we pass even at the risk of their own safety. They do not pit one segment of the community against another, scattering the sheep and driving them away. Instead, they work to dismantle the walls that divide us. They speak the Word that gathers us together. They reconcile us with God and with each other. They may not give us easy answers, but their primary concern is to lead us to Jesus, the one who is our peace and our salvation.

There are times in our life when the challenges and responsibilities of leadership frightened us. There are times in our life when we feel we can no longer carry the burden that has been entrusted upon us. What should we do when times of crisis like this come?

We should turn to God in prayer and be fed and nurtured by receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist not only on Sundays but as frequently as possible and actively participating in the different ministries of the Church and in our community. If we do, God will strengthen us; just as He strengthens his shepherds.

While we know that we are the sheep under Our Lord's flock, it is often hard to find peace in the pasture or our community here in BLD. We get caught up in the struggles of our daily life, the hardships of health issues, sickness, the rigors of work, the complexities of relationships, unemployment, and financial insecurities. All these issues can be summed up in one word: STRESS. There come days when a single word distresses us that everything in it seems to weary us and ends up with anxiety and fear. Because of too many activities in the community, we cannot refuse but follow including our own personal matters, all these can easily "burn" us out. Let us listen to what the Master says: "Come away--- and rest awhile." (MK 6:31)

When Jesus and the apostles sailed off to a deserted place for some peace and quiet; we have to understand, it is not vacation. The “desert” here becomes a symbol for learning on how to be fed by God through his Word and Reflections. The overall picture shows us how to receive divine energy and nourishment that drives the mission. Relaxation is an occasion to seek Christ. Rest is needed to gain strength, to think clearly, and to be renewed. Hopefully all these things will make our life and the people around us content and happy. Simple, quiet time most especially in contemplative prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament is all that is needed to allow the love of God fill and radiate from us because Jesus is our ultimate “Stress Reliever” who offers us consolation, hope and peace. He is the Good Shepherd who can ...and will ... guide and protect us when we place our trust in Him.

Lord God look with compassion upon Your people as we hunger and thirst for true life. Bring peace for our soul. Guide us in Your ways and bring us safely into Your flock. Grant us goodness and mercy in our life that we may be able to follow as You lead us. Amen

Directions:

- Bring the community to a retreat to be strengthened further by the Word.
- Devote time to daily personal, conjugal and family prayers.
- Spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

July 16 – Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

History:

According to the traditions of the Carmelite order, on July 16, 1251, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite. During the vision, she revealed to him the [Scapular](#) of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, popularly known as the "Brown Scapular." A century and a quarter later, the Carmelite order began to celebrate on this date the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Carmelites had long claimed that their order extended back to ancient times—indeed, that it was founded on Mount Carmel in Palestine by the prophets Elijah and Elisha. While others disputed this idea, Pope Honorius III, in approving the order in 1226, seemed to accept its antiquity. The celebration of the feast became wrapped up with this

controversy, and, in 1609, after Robert Cardinal Bellarmine examined the origins of the feast, it was declared the patronal feast of the Carmelite order.

From then on, the celebration of the feast began to spread, with various popes approving the celebration in southern Italy, then Spain and her colonies, then Austria, Portugal and her colonies, and finally in the Papal States, before Benedict XIII placed the feast on the universal calendar of the Latin Church in 1726. It has since been adopted by some Eastern Rite Catholics as well.

The feast celebrates the devotion that the Blessed Virgin Mary has to those who are devoted to her, and who signal that devotion by wearing the Brown Scapular. According to tradition, those who wear the scapular faithfully and remain devoted to the Blessed Virgin until death will be granted the grace of final perseverance and be delivered from Purgatory early.

St. Teresa of Avila (October 15) called Carmel “the Order of the Virgin.” St. John of the Cross (December 14) credited Mary with saving him from drowning as a child, leading him to Carmel and helping him escape from prison. St. Theresa of the Child Jesus believed that Mary cured her from illness. On her First Communion, she dedicated her life to Mary. During the last days of her life she frequently spoke of Mary.

Source:

http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/OL_Mount_Carmel.htm

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein that you are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein that you are my Mother.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us that have recourse to thee. (3 times)
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times)

July Calendar

July 03 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
for 2009 Schedule of Events.

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

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
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Love Offering

June 26, 2009 \$ 957.00
July 03, 2009 \$1,277.00
July 10, 2009 \$ 822.00
July 17, 2007 \$1,162.00

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