

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS

COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

Hunger for Holiness

Theme: Jesus leads us to eternal life when we remain new creations in God's image.

Word: Ex 16: 2-4,12-15; Ps 78: 3-4, 23-25, 54; Eph 4: 17, 20-24; Jn 6: 24-35

Order: "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life..." (Jn 6:27) Put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds.

Promise: "...whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (Jn 6: 35b)

(BLD Global Community reflection for August 2009)

REFLECTION: The gospel for this Sunday begins right after the day Jesus feeds about 5000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. The people wanted to carry Jesus and make him king, but, he withdrew to the mountain by Himself. The following day, the people were still looking for Him, as they followed Him across the Sea of Galilee and finally found Him in Capernaum. They were looking for Him because He supplied them with food and filled their needs without working for it. They failed to understand the purpose of the miracle and failed to recognize Jesus for who He really is. That is why Jesus said "Do not work for food that perishes but for food that endures for eternal life..." (John 6:27). Being a member of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community would imply that, for the most part, we would know the difference between food that perishes and food that endures forever. We are very well acquainted with food that perishes. Our bodies tell us when we are hungry or cold, or when it needs sustenance, clothing & shelter. The world and the media

constantly bombard us through television, radio, newspapers, and websites telling us that we should buy their products and that we would be satisfied. But we know that satisfaction is temporal. New needs are created as soon as the old ones are met, then emptiness sets in and the search for something more that will give us satisfaction and happiness begins all over again. People are being led down the path of materialism, searching to satisfy that hunger inside us that could not be satisfied by any material means. The devil, our flesh and the world have been successful in selling us this false idea, really distracting us from the real food. What would really make us happy? Is it that brand new car, that big house, or that large HD TV, or maybe financial security?

Jesus said "work for food that endures for eternal life." What kind of food is it that Jesus meant here for us? In John 4:34, when Jesus was with the Samaritan woman by the well and his disciples asked him to eat, Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work." The food is "to do the will of God Father and to finish his work". In John 6:29 the food is to have faith in Jesus. In John 6:35 the food is Jesus himself, the bread of life.

Jesus did not say that we didn't have to work, he told us to focus on things that lead to eternal life. This is a call to us to be holy people, doing the will of the Father. St. Thomas defines holiness as the virtue in which a man's mind applies itself and all its acts to God. It means "putting away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds." (Ephesians 4:22-23).

Holiness is an active application of our minds and heart to become like Christ. It means loving Him and loving through Him in every humble thought and act. Holiness is choosing as much and as constantly as we are capable of, that which is right and good before God. Being holy is choosing freely to do what is good and right before God and others.

And it is this, doing what is good and what is right that will be rewarded, that will endure for eternal life. Each and every good and righteous act or manner of living is like a precious gem in our hearts that when gazed upon by our God explodes into multitude of rays of inner happiness and peace and sense of wholeness and contentment, we are then satisfied in the truest sense of the word. Truly “Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O God.”

The BLD community is and was given to us by God’s design to help each and every one of us grow to be holy, to work for food that endures, to be remade by Jesus into new creations in God’s image. Our sole purpose in life is to be holy. Our Father God is holy, Jesus is holy, Mama Mary is holy, and all the saints in heaven are holy. And that is where we belong! Amen?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Support our formation/ immersion program for Mark 10, John 6 and Youth.
2. Support your parish by becoming extraordinary ministers, lectors and catechist.
3. Invigorate our word sharing program starting from the stewards to the members.

August 4 - St. John Vianney (1786-1859)



A man with vision overcomes obstacles and performs deeds that seem impossible. John Vianney was a man with vision: He wanted to become a priest. But he had to overcome his meager formal schooling, which inadequately prepared him for seminary studies.

His failure to comprehend Latin lectures forced him to discontinue. But his vision of being a priest urged him to seek private tutoring. After a lengthy battle with the books, John was ordained.

Situations calling for “impossible” deeds followed him everywhere. As pastor of the parish at Ars, John encountered people who were indifferent and quite comfortable with their style of living. His vision led him through severe fasts and short nights of sleep. (Some devils can only be cast out by prayer and fasting.)

With Catherine Lassagne and Benedicta Lardet, he established La Providence, a home for girls. Only a man of vision could have such trust that God would provide for the spiritual and material needs of all those who came to make La Providence their home.

His work as a confessor is John Vianney’s most remarkable accomplishment. In the winter months he was to spend 11 to 12 hours daily reconciling people with God. In the summer months this time was increased to 16 hours. Unless a man was dedicated to his vision of a priestly vocation, he could not have endured this giving of self day after day.

Many people look forward to retirement and taking it easy, doing the things they always wanted to do but never had the time. But John Vianney had no thoughts of retirement. As his fame spread, more hours were consumed in serving God’s people. Even the few hours he would allow himself for sleep were disturbed frequently by the devil.

Who, but a man with vision, could keep going with ever-increasing strength? In 1929, Pope Pius XI named him the patron of parish priests worldwide.

Source: <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1097>

Pope's declaration:

Year for Priests (June 19, 2009-June 19, 2010)

Pope Benedict XVI declared a year of the priest in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests. The pope opened the special year with a vespers service at the Vatican June 19—the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. He will close the celebrations during a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square June 19, 2010.

Prayer for Priests

Dear Lord,
we pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.
We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).
May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.
May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
Inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.
May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls.
Amen.
Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

Reminder

**Please sign in and wear your BLD IDs during
Praise & Worship and Community Functions.**

August Calendar

August 07 Eucharistic Celebration
14 Praise & Worship
21 Praise & Worship
28 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

Love Offering

July 10, 2009 \$ 822.00
July 17, 2007 \$1,162.00
July 24, 2009 \$ 657.00
July 31, 2009 \$ 830.00

Thank you for your generosity!