

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

The Eucharist: One Mind in Faith with Christ

Theme: Jesus leads us to eternal life when we believe that His words are spirit and life.”

Word: *Jesus the Living Bread leads us to eternal life.*

Order: “Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:21); Decide today to serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)

Promise: *“The Lord redeems the lives of His servants; no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in Him.” (Ps. 34:23)*

(BLD Global Community reflection for August 2009)

REFLECTION: Daily decisions are a part of life: how to dress, what to eat, when to go to bed. In these matters our decisions are constantly changing, but we have some decisions which by their nature should be permanent. These are fundamental choices which we make by our own free will, of which an excellent example is our decision to marry. Marriage according to the Word of God is a covenant, a permanent, loving relationship of fidelity in which a man and a woman become one.

God invited His people of the Old Testament to become His partner in a covenant which was a spiritual form of marriage. Joshua, the leader of God’s people after the death of Moses, understood the importance of this covenant. He challenged the people: *“if it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve.... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”* Joshua had made his decision.

Centuries later, Jesus confronted those who had heard him preach. He challenged them to make a decision about himself. He had proclaimed a doctrine which they clearly understood. *“The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have life everlasting and I will raise them up on the last day.”* They understood Jesus so clearly that they objected. “This sort of talk is hard to endure” How can anyone take it seriously?”

But that they take it seriously is exactly what Jesus demanded. When his objectors turned their backs on him to walk away, he let them go. It was the day of decision. It was not possible to profess faith in Jesus and at the same time to reject his promise of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus then challenged those closest to him, the Twelve: *“Do you want to leave me too?”* Peter in an affirmation of loyalty and faith that has been repeated through the ages by men and women of

faith, declared, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God’s holy one.”*

Peter’s profession of faith was not forced upon him. He had received a grace which was not unlike a proposal of marriage. To this grace he freely responded. He had made a decision to bind himself so closely to Christ that, despite his momentary lapse later on, he would be of one mind in faith with Christ. In effect he said that he wanted to enter into a permanent, loving relationship of fidelity with Christ.

We have the same grace which means we have the same challenge, the same decision to make. Christ made faith in the Eucharist the ultimate test of faith in Himself. Appropriately, the Eucharist is the sacrament of the new and everlasting covenant. To embrace the Eucharist and to make the celebration of this sacrament the center and heart of our lives is to live out the permanent, loving relationship which makes Christ and ourselves two in one flesh.

DIRECTION: Gather together all the households of the community and commit to serve the Lord.

Prayer: Father God, You so loved the world that You gave your only Son, to die for our sins, and we accept this reality with all our hearts and all of our minds. Help us also to accept and believe, for our sake and continuing salvation, that the Holy Eucharist which we partake in our celebration of the Holy Mass is truly Your Body and Blood, broken to save, heal and remind us always of Your love for each of us. Thank You Lord Jesus. May we grow holy and charitable with our fellowmen to be worthy of your body and blood, our “Bread of life”. Amen!

Bukas Loob sa Diyos
Covenant Community

PRAYER FOR THE COMMUNITY

Lord Jesus, You said that all will know we are truly Your disciples by the love we bear for one another. You prayed that your disciples may all be one, just as You and the Father are one. We pray, Jesus, for the same unity of heart and mind, that in You we too may be one with the Father.

Lord, we have a covenant with You to follow Your commandments, especially that of loving one another and living in unity. Beyond our circumstances and concerns, our fears and craving for recognition, grant us the grace to overcome our tendency to be over-sensitive and judgmental of one another. May we always remember that in matters of community concerns, our leaders speak for You and have the good of the community at heart.

Let your Holy Spirit flow freely into our hearts and minds that we too may share in that mutual love between you and the Father. May harmony reign in our community life and activities. Banish all bitterness, petty bickering and strife from our midst. Help us to be holy as You are holy, to love one another as You have loved us. Remind us always to lift up our hearts in prayer. Nourish us by Your Word and strengthen us through Your Sacraments.

Make us one, Lord Jesus, for it is good and pleasant when we dwell as one, and there You will lavish blessings upon us. In Your Mighty Name Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Imprimatur
+ ANL, Archbishop of Jaro
Pentecost 2009

August 22 - Queenship of Mary

Pius XII established this feast in 1954. But Mary's queenship has roots in Scripture. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, Mary is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court.

In the fourth century St. Ephrem called Mary "Lady" and "Queen" and Church fathers and doctors continued to use the title. Hymns of the eleventh to thirteenth centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven." The Dominican rosary and the Franciscan crown as well as numerous invocations in Mary's litany celebrate her queenship.

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption and is now celebrated on the octave day of that feast. In his encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, because she is closely associated as the New Eve with Jesus' redemptive work, because of her preeminent perfection and because of her intercessory power.

Quote:

"Let the entire body of the faithful pour forth persevering prayer to the Mother of God and Mother of men. Let them implore that she who aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers may now, exalted as she is in heaven above all the saints and angels, intercede with her Son in the fellowship of all the saints. May she do so until all the peoples of the human family, whether they are honored with the name of Christian or whether they still do not know their Savior, are happily gathered together in peace and harmony into the one People of God, for the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 69).

Source:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1115>

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

September 18-20, 2009

- Singles Encounter No.4
Hilton Garden Inn
Dulles - North
22400 Flagstaff Plaza
Ashburn, Virginia 20148

September 20, 2009

- Joyous Celebration of Faith, Hope
and Love Concert by Carlos Ibay
4PM, OLV Church

November 13-15, 2009

- Marriage Encounter No. 10
Dulles Hilton, Dulles, Virginia

Love Offering

July 31, 2009 \$ 830.00
Aug. 07, 2009 \$1,407.00
Aug. 14, 2009 \$ 890.00
Aug. 21, 2009 \$1,045.25

Thank you for your generosity!

Reminder

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