



BLD WASHINGTON
BURÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

***ETCHED IN STONE OR
WRITTEN ON THE SAND***

Theme: Christ's call for repentance exhorts us not to condemn others.

Word: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phi 3:8-14;
Jn 8:1-11

Order: "Go and from now on, do not sin anymore." Jn 8:11.

Promise: "Neither do I condemn you"
(Jn 8:11)

(BLD Global Community reflection for March 2010)

REFLECTION: What is the key to God's kingdom in heaven, or happiness on earth? Moses gave the Israelites ten keys in the form of the 10 Commandments. Christ made it easier for us by giving us one master key that opens all the doors to lifelong bliss and eternal peace by commanding us in Luke 10:27 "to love God above all, and our fellow man as we would love ourselves".

To possess this key we must know love in its purest form as exemplified by Christ through His unconditional COMPASSION and FORGIVENESS (this week's central community value) towards those who persecuted him. Indeed, these are the pre-conditions to finding true peace

within us and with God. We should always bear in mind that the guiding principle of our community is: "Love through forgiveness and compassion".

Like many other communities, this community flourishes because we continuously rediscover the true nature of love. This is the same love that Christ spoke about in His parable of the father who forgave his prodigal son and his older son's jealousy towards his brother. Through this community, we find hope. We "re-learn" how to be compassionate and to forgive.

Christ's attitude towards His persecutors compared to that of man's is as disparate as heaven and earth. Whereas Christ promptly forgives regardless of the gravity of His enemies' offense, man bears grudges for a long time. We have a phrase in Tagalog for this kind of attitude – "ita-taga sa bato". Man has this propensity to "etch in stone" his fellowman's sins against him. Thus it remains indelible and is passed on through generations. On the other hand, God writes our transgressions in the shifting sands of the desert where the wind quickly erases it forever,

We are now deep into the Lenten Season, the holiest days of our faith and approaching the Easter Triduum, which is the fulcrum of the Church's liturgical year. The sacred rites of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the solemn Easter Vigil, help us relive the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Throughout this period, the central message which is the essence of God's love is COMPASSION and FORGIVENESS. It is very important that we focus

on these two virtues on which love is founded. Fr. George Morelli, a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, defines forgiveness as "...ending resentment, indignation or anger when an offense has either subjectively or objectively occurred. But most importantly, it is to love God as God loves." This might sound very easy if put in the context of simply uttering, "I forgive you, please forgive me." But why does unforgiveness towards others persist? The answer lies in the character of our spirit.

As we have learned in our community's teachings on Inner Healing, our spirits could either be "wounded" or "broken". A wounded spirit is one that is constantly hurting, a spirit that focuses on himself and his injuries. It is a negative spirit that can only find fault even in the best of situations. It is a spirit that is suspicious and blames others. On the other hand, a broken spirit is a spirit that has learned to accept its own limitations and sins. It is, therefore, humble and contrite. A broken spirit finds no need for problems to be explained, but instead seeks to find God's wisdom even when persecuted.

In these contrasting definitions, we can see that if we possess a wounded spirit, forgiving those who hurt us will be very difficult, for our inner miseries will prevent us from moving forward. It is even harder to forgive ourselves for our own shortcomings and sins.

A broken spirit's character of resignation, contriteness and humility allows it to move on. **"I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind, but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus."** – Phil 3:13, 14. It is this willingness to move forward that allows a broken spirit to look at life the way God wants us to see it: a life of hope and promise, a life where He is always present, showering us with His love.

The first step to forgiving those who persecute you

is to pray as Christ did while on His Cross. Instead of asking judgment from God for those who hurt us, we should ask for God's mercy and love: "For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment." (Jam 2:13). This is reinforced in this week's **Promise: "Neither do I condemn you." Jn 8:11.**

Our spirit can never be perfect until we have entered into God's Kingdom, but as we await the promise of Easter morning, let us pray to the Lord that He breaks through our stony heart and replace it with a heart of compassion and mercy for ourselves and for others.

Directions:

1. Be faithful to your calling as disciple of Christ.
2. Do not judge lest you be judged.



March 19

St. Joseph



Today is the feast day of a saint who is popular to many in search for houses, good husbands, work, and those praying for a peaceful death. Today is the feast day of Saint Joseph, the foster father of our savior, Jesus Christ. What a great honor it must have been for Saint Joseph, a

simple carpenter to be called by God to act as Jesus' foster father! Joseph was so open to his Creator's voice that he obeyed God's wishes, even when it meant social torment as when he took Mary to be his wife despite her condition. Joseph was a chaste and honorable companion to the ever-virgin Mary. He was a loving father and teacher, humbled by the son he knew to be divine.

One could say that Joseph was very close to power, and by affinity could have enjoyed the benefits of having a son who could perform miracles. Yet, Saint Joseph did not live his life with a sense of entitlement. On the contrary, he never drew attention to himself and instead chose to remain a faithful servant of God. He recognized his place as foster father to Jesus, always gentle and never demanding of his son. Joseph's heart held no ambition for earthly distinction nor the greatness of our heavenly father.

The way Joseph lived his life spoke volumes of the love, trust, and respect he had for his Lord and savior. This lent, let us ask for St. Joseph's intercession, that we too may live in prayerful humility, obedience, and openness to God's plan for us. May our hearts blaze with the same love Joseph had for the one true God!

Love Offering

Feb. 19, 2010 \$1,332.58
Feb. 26, 2010 \$1,307.00
Mar. 05, 2010 \$ 978.00
Mar. 12, 2010 \$ 828.00

Thank you for your generosity!

March Calendar

Mar. 05 First Friday Eucharistic Celebration
12 Praise & Worship
19 Praise & Worship
26 Praise & Worship

Stations of the Cross at OLV Church
7:00 PM every Friday during Lent

Teaching Schedule

Mar. 27, 2010

Encounters with Jesus (Part 2)

Development of Gospels/Gospel of Mark
For LSS 9 & make-up for older classes
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

McCarrick Ctr (Rm 301), Wheaton, MD
Christian Servanthood

For LSS 8 & make-up for older classes
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

McCarrick Ctr (Rm 301), Wheaton, MD

Mar. 28, 2010

Teachings of Jesus Christ DVD Series

For covenanted members
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

McCarrick Center (Basement)
Wheaton, MD

Community Calendar

May 7-9

Life in Spirit Seminar #10 *

May 21-23

Youth Life in Spirit Seminar #4 *

Jun. 12

Agony in the Garden/
Washing of the Feet Retreat *

Jul. 9-12

Aspirants Retreat *

Jul. 31-Aug. 2

Family Encounter #4
Malvern, PA

Aug. 15

Community Day
Bretton Woods, Potomac, MD

Sep. 24-26

Solo Parent Encounter #3
Holy Family, MD

Nov. 12-14

Marriage Encounter #11
Dulles Hilton, VA

*Time & Venue – TBD

Please check our website www.bldwashington.com
for 2010 Schedule of Events.