



BLD WASHINGTON
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Witnessing Christ's Forgiving Love

Theme: We are disciples of Christ when we witness to His forgiving love.

Word: Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9;
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26

Order: *“Let the one who thirsts come forward and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.”* (Rev 22:17)

(BLD Global Community reflection for May 2010)

REFLECTION:

The theme for the 7th Sunday in Easter is: “We are disciples of Christ when we witness to His forgiving love.” Knowing what the difference is between acting as a witness and being a Christian witness – that is the daily challenge we all face in our lives as Jesus’ disciples. It starts and is shown by our faith in our God, with fear of our Lord, by our obedience to His will, by following His laws, by living a Christ-centered life, by showing good deeds as a fruit of our obedience, by leading through our examples, by being ambassadors for Christ.

As Christian witnesses, we are called to be examples to others, models of hope in our Lord’s salvation, ambassadors of Christ to all, teachers to our children, for this is a precondition to eternal life:

*“I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds....
Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates.”* (Rev 22:12-14)

Right before He suffered and died, our Lord Jesus first prayed to our Father for Himself, then for His apostles, then for the succeeding generations - for all of us – His church! The Lord truly acted as a living witness to the virtue of prayer – maintaining a personal connection to His Father – our Father.

Stephen followed the Lord Jesus’ example of His forgiving love. In his last words, as he was being stoned to death, Stephen commended his spirit to Jesus, just as Jesus commended His to the Father. Stephen prays for his enemies and forgives his attackers, *“Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’”* (Acts 7:60) We remember the words of Jesus on the cross before He died for our sins, *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”* (Lk 23:34)

As followers and witnesses of the Lord Jesus, we are constantly reminded to pray – just as He taught us all. We are taught to pray for our loved ones, ourselves, our Church, and even those who we perceive to be persecuting us. The Word of God is ripe with all of our Lord’s teachings on this. He tells us to love and pray for them:

God's Promise for the Week

“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father...” (Mt 5:44-45)

“Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates.” (Rev 22:14)

He tells us to also do good, and to bless them:

“But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person, who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic.” (Lk 6:27-29)

Jesus, during His agony in Gethsemane, prayed for the Church to be one. ***“Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you.”*** (Jn 17:20-21)

We all are aware of how things have evolved in the Church through the years to become what it is today. Undoubtedly, our Lord already knew all these during the hours He was deep in prayer before He was glorified. His desire is that He could bring everyone destined to be with Him to be in His eternal presence. ***“Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me...”*** (Jn 17:24) The struggle for unity has been ongoing throughout history – in the Catholic Church, through the rest of Christianity and to other religions and nations. Continue to pray for unity in the Church, in our nations, in our homelands and in our communities.

As we heed and follow the Lord's voice, let us also yield to His directions for ourselves:

1. Pray for those who persecute you.
2. Pray for unity



Life in the Spirit Seminar #10 A Renewal Experience for the Whole Community

Congratulations to our Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) #10 graduates: Carlo Alvarez, Frances Andrada, Bacz Baclao, Maresa Cordeta, Jerico Marzan, Sharon Oliveros, Enzo Pabalan, Franky Perez, Vhon Posadas, Warren Quanico, Jen Uy, Tonypet & Lily Aldiosa, Robert & Lynn Bagtas, Doug & Charette Hosford, Bert & Elsa Palting, Don & Milette Varela, and Ben Villagrancia. The LSS started with an Invocation Mass celebrated by BLD Washington and LSS#10 Spiritual Director, Father Francis Alves. Remarkably, many chose to pave their journey back home to Christ by first, joyfully receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was noted that during the baptism, a sense of triumph and serenity overcame the venue as the participants surrendered themselves to a renewed relationship with the Lord.

When asked, participants characterized last week's LSS #10 as "Powerful and moving!" As a community, may the memory of our own renewal through the LSS inspire us to live everyday of our lives as our personal Pentecost – keeping the Holy Spirit burning within us! St. Teresa of Avila once said:

*“Christ has no body now but yours
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do
good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses”*

Clothed in the Holy Spirit, we are commissioned by Christ to spread His teachings, live by faith and example, and allow everyone we meet to see Christ in us. Let us always be mindful of the awesome dignity that God has given us as living tabernacles.

Every Encounter and LSS conducted by BLD is a practice in building Christ's church. Many are called and chosen to serve and submit to the Holy Spirit. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the shepherds, sharers, prayer leaders, exhorters, volunteers, and prayer warriors who took the time to make this LSS a worthy offering to the Holy Trinity!

“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.” 1Cor 12:7-11

Together with the new LSS#10 graduates, may we be emboldened by the Seal of the Holy Spirit to use our gifts in building our community and spreading the gospel until we are in perfect union with God the Father, Son, and Spirit!

Love Offering

April 09, 2010 \$1,086.00
April 16, 2010 \$1,233.00
April 23, 2010 \$2,038.00
April 30, 2010 \$1,047.00

Thank you for your generosity!

May Calendar

May 07 LSS Invocation Mass
May 14 Praise & Worship
May 21 YLSS Invocation Mass
May 28 Praise & Worship

Community Calendar

May 21-23

Youth Life in Spirit Seminar #4
Holy Family Seminary
Time and Venue - TBD

Jul. 31-Aug. 2

Family Encounter #4
Malvern, PA

Sep. 24-26

Solo Parent Encounter #3
Holy Family Seminary
Silver Spring, MD

Nov. 12-14

Marriage Encounter #11
Dulles Hilton, VA

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

Reminder

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