



BLD WASHINGTON  
**BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS**  
**COVENANT COMMUNITY**

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsel

### *Commitment to Growth*

**Theme:** We are disciples of Christ when we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Word:** Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;  
1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

**Order:** Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (Jn. 20:23)

*(BLD Global Community reflection for May 2010)*

### **REFLECTION:**

The disciples, whom Jesus left after His suffering, death and resurrection, were all together, locked up in one place, filled with fear. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in their midst greeting them **“Peace be with you.”** They all rejoiced at seeing Him, because then, they were certain without any doubt that Jesus was alive. Then Jesus offered peace the second time. **“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you’** and when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, **‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’** (Jn 20:21-23)

Miraculously, a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit shows in these elements. Fire appears in

Sacred Scriptures as love which penetrates all things, and also, is a purifying element. Fire also produces light and signifies the new brightness which the Holy Spirit sheds on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. **“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all the truth... He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”** (Jn 16:13a, 14)

Thus, the rushing wind on the day of Pentecost expresses the new force with which Divine love invades the Church and its members. In order that the apostles carry out the identical mission that Jesus received from the Father after He “breathes” into them (Jn. 20:22), they in turn continue His work of transforming the world by cleansing it from sin and recreating it in the Spirit. Since the mandate of Christ is both to forgive and to retain sin, we have to remember, it is still Jesus who is the High Priest who gives us Divine healing. He works through our Priests in giving us absolution of our sins and lead to supernatural life which is eternal heaven, it says: “if you have sinned, you should tell each other what you have done, then you can pray for one another and be healed.”

Whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and many of their sins will be forgiven. (Jas 5:16, 20). Confession can assist us in spiritual warfare. The Spirit of Divine love flowing from the disciples is now alive in our church and community built from age to age. Yes, these gifts continue to flow today.

St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, says: *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.”* (1 Cor 12:4-6)

When we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we literally have “God’s breath” within us. If today we let God breathe His Spirit into us, we ourselves can experience the miracle of “LOVE” in a language that everyone can understand. We can begin to love and care for one another. We begin to realize that we were placed here by God to do some good that no one else could do. It may be a kindness shown to someone who is part of our lives for only a brief while; or it may be the example we give to people we don’t even notice, but who in the providence of God crosses the path of our life and notice us.

Do we still carry in our hearts that burning desire and that spiritual upliftment after receiving the Holy Spirit during LSS weekend? This is now the time to renew ourselves, spend time to reflect what the Spirit has done in us. The Holy Spirit continually fills our hearts to live peacefully with our fellow men. We are created new through baptism and confirmation. Together with the Holy Spirit, we work to renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104:30)

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Spend some quiet time with the Holy Spirit.
2. Be prepared to do the mission God has entrusted to us.
3. Make bold your proclamation about what God has done in your life after LSS.
4. Do not be afraid to use your gifts.

**God’s Promise for the Week**

*“When you send forth your breath, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”*  
(Ps 104: 30)



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**St. Rita of Cascia**  
**Patron Saint of the Impossible**  
May 22

St. Rita of Cascia was born in 1381 in the village of Roccaporena near Cascia in Italy. She was the only child of Antonio and Amata Lotti who were already advanced in age when Rita was born.

From an early age, Rita dreamed of being a nun. She frequented the convent of the Augustian nuns of Cascia. However, her parents had other dreams for her. They arranged her marriage to Paolo Mancini when she was only 12 years old. She bore two sons, a twin, named Giangiacomo Antonio and Paolo Maria. Rita taught his sons Catholic values but they chose to follow the immoral ways of their father. As a watchman of the town in Cascia, Mancini often found himself drawn into the conflict of two political factions, the Guelps and the Ghibellines. For 18 years, Rita had to put up with his abuse and infidelity.

Through Rita’s prayers, Mancini was converted. Unfortunately, as he worked on his reformation, he was ambushed and killed.

Her sons wanted to avenge their father’s death. Rita knew that vengeance was wrong but her persuasion came to no avail. So, she prayed to God to just take away the lives of her sons, rather than see them commit murder. Tradition says that God heard

Rita’s voice because a year later, her sons died of natural causes, but only after they had received the last Sacraments.

With no more family responsibilities, Rita did what she had desired since her childhood – to join the Augustinian Nuns of St. Mary Magdalene Monastery. At first, her admission was denied because virginity was required for entry into the convent and some of the religious of the community belong to the political group responsible for her husband’s death. However, Rita was persistent. She implored the help of her three patron saints, John the Baptist, Augustine, and Nicholas of Tolentino, to assist her. She worked for the establishment of peace between the hostile parties of Cascia and succeeded.

One night, as Rita was praying, she heard someone call her name and a knock on the door. Miraculously she was instantly transported to the Augustinian monastery. Astonished at the miracle, the Nuns received Rita, and accepted her as one of their own. She was 36 years old.

Rita followed the ancient Rule of Saint Augustine. She devoted herself to prayer, works of charity, took pains to maintain peace and harmony among the citizens of Cascia.

She desired that more and more become intimately joined to the redemptive suffering of Jesus and her desire was satisfied in an extraordinary way. When she was about 60 years old, while she was meditating before the image of Jesus crucified, a small wound appeared on her forehead, like one made by a thorn from the crown that encircled Jesus’ head. She bore the pain in the next 15 years. In spite of the pain, she constantly experienced, she offered herself courageously for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of others.

A few months before her death, one of her visitors asked if she had any special requests, Rita asked that a rose from the garden of her parent’s home be brought to her. That was impossible to fulfill because roses do not bloom in January. But to the

amazement of the person being requested, a single brightly colored blossom appeared on a rose bush just as the nun had said. It was brought to Rita who gave thanks to God for His sign of love.

Her last words before her death on May 22, 1457 were, “Remain in the holy love of Jesus. Remain in obedience to the holy Roman church. Remain in peace and fraternal charity.” Her body was placed in a glass case and was put on display at the Basilica of St. Rita in Cascia in Italy. She was beatified in 1627 by Pope Urban VIII and canonized on May 24, 1900, by Pope Leo XIII.

As we venerate St. Rita of Cascia on her feast day, let us be inspired by her example. Let us remain in constant communication with God through our prayers and be charitable at all times.

**Patron Saint of:**

- Difficult marriages
- Impossible causes
- Infertility
- Parenthood



[Source: http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/258421/st-rita-cascia-patron-saint-impossible](http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/258421/st-rita-cascia-patron-saint-impossible)

**Love Offering**

- Apr. 23, 2010 \$2,038.00
- Apr. 30, 2010 \$1,047.00
- May 07, 2009 \$ 926.00
- May 14, 2010 \$ 809.00

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

**July 23-25**

Aspirant's Retreat

**Jul. 30-Aug. 1**

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](http://www.bldwashington.com)  
for 2010 Schedule of Events.

**Reminder**

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

**Teaching Schedule**

**June 27** Advanced Intercession  
**Aug. 29** Christian Servanthood  
**Sept. 26** Healing & Deliverance  
**Oct. 23** Spiritual Warfare

*Time and location TBD*

