

BLD WASHINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Holiness

Theme: We spread the Good News of salvation when people see the character of Jesus in us.

Word: Disciples of Christ obey His call to spread the Good News of salvation.

Order: “Delight in and meditate on the law of the LORD.” (Ps.1:2)

(BLD Global Community reflection for February 2010)

REFLECTION: In the first reading (Jer. 17:5-8), we are reminded by the prophet Jeremiah to always rely on God’s wisdom. In the second reading (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20), St. Paul clarifies the issue of Christ’s resurrection and ours, “If the dead are not raised, then Christ is not raised, and if Christ was not raised, your faith is worthless... But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

There is indeed resurrection in Christ Jesus in this life and in the next. Just recently, this writer had personal experience of this. The week before Christmas, I was terminated from work, my wages and bonuses withheld. I was despondent and distraught, and planned to take action against the company I had helped build. Instead, I went to the adoration chapel and had a one-on-one with

God. I asked and complained to God, why of all the seasons of the year, did this happen to me at this particular time? Imagine being penniless at Christmastime. Resentment and bitterness filled my heart. However, God comforted me and in my heart I heard him say, “Do not rely on your strength, trust and obey me instead, you will definitely grow from this experience, for my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor my ways your ways. Besides, Christmas is not about you; Christmas is about me giving you an Enabler. You give yourself to Me as a present.” With these words of comfort, revelation and wisdom of God, I spent a happy Christmas with my family, friends and community. As the New Year began, to my surprise, God indeed blessed and gave me the opportunity to be part owner of a new and better company.

In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul points out that if we do not believe that Jesus was sent by God to bring us back to Him and His gift of everlasting life, then we are indeed wrong in our faith. But by our own life experiences, we have living proof that when God closes the front door, He opens the back door, or at the very least, a window of His grace, our escape hatch of love. If we look back we can recall many instances in our lives when misfortunes are transformed into blessings. God was, and continues to be there for us to give us a fresh break and a new life because He loves us. But if you say, that there is no resurrection in Christ Jesus, then you are not only a liar,

but you are pathetic, living a pointless, meaningless existence with no future resurrection to look forward to. God does indeed allow us to experience Jesus' resurrection in our daily life, so that when we finally meet Him, our true resurrection will be realized.

In the Sermon on the Plains according to St. Luke, commonly known as the Beatitudes, Jesus addresses himself exclusively to the disciples, because He wanted them to continually divest themselves of their self-reliance and to only obey, trust and depend upon Him. It is not that Jesus doubted their obedience; remember that when he summoned them, each of them dropped everything to follow him. But because Jesus too was a man, though God, He knew and could empathize with His disciples' weaknesses. He understood human nature, and how weak and vulnerable man can be when faced with discouragement, or beset by trials and tribulations. He saw fit to constantly remind his disciples that they were merely passing through life here on earth; and that there is a better life hereafter, where true riches and happiness await those whose hearts cling to Him and not to the material wealth, honor and glory offered by this world. The central message of the Beatitudes is detachment from the false attractions of this world and to seek only the riches found in Christ. In and of itself, it is not wrong to be rich or aspire for wealth, for to be destitute is also not of Christ. But every temporal good can become evil if it separates our hearts from God. But we cannot serve God and Mammon. It is not possible be governed and enslaved by "money" and power, and still put God first in our lives. To be spiritually poor, means, to detach from everything else but Christ, to welcome suffering and accept misfortunes or persecutions as the price we pay for following Christ, who is God's Word, and

our life. If we hunger after Him, His Word will feed us and sustain us.

On the other hand, these temporal "evils" mentioned in the Gospel can have a salvific meaning of beatitude, if they lead our hearts to God. Examples would be poverty, deprivation, sufferings and persecutions. When our hearts are anchored on Christ, these trials prepare us for eternal intimacy with Him and a share of the Father's Kingdom, our eternal reward, as promised to us by Jesus Himself. His Words of Life comfort us and together with the Sacraments, strengthen us, and lead us to enter into the blessings prepared for those who remain united and dependent on God.

We, like the early Disciples of Christ, share the same calling, a call to perfection in the way of holiness. And the beatitude is the blueprint for holiness. It is only through living them in our lives that our love for God is purified, that we in BLD, can truly say that we are followers of Christ, that we are indeed living Christianity. Happy are we, then, who trust and hope in the Lord, who delights not in the counsel of the wicked, but in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law, day and night.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through You. Showing us the path to holiness through the beatitudes helps us realize our deepest need for You, who are our strength, our shield, the lifter of our head. Grant us the grace to overcome our inappropriate passions and worldly desires, and help us to seek the way of humble submission to Your will, and the strength to rely on You alone and not on our own power or resources. Increase in us Lord, for it is our desire to trust and hope in You alone. Amen.

Directions:

1. Consider our sufferings and trials as blessings and opportunities for grace.
2. Enrich our lives with prayer, fasting and sacraments.

God's Promise for the Week

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord." (Jer 17:7-8)



Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people.

How bright is your lamp?

The Parable of the Ten Virgins from the book of Matthew tells us how ten virgins carrying their oil lamps traveled to meet the bridegroom. Five were considered wise since they brought oil, while the other five were considered foolish for not bringing extra oil. In the end of the parable, the five virgins who were prepared for the long journey met the bridegroom and stayed in his company, as the other five left to fill their lamps causing them to miss the bridegroom altogether. *"Therefore, stay*

awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:13

Looking out the window, I see round two of the Blizzard of 2010. The snow is blowing in the strong winds and I catch myself praying to God. I was caught off guard for round one and so when the power went out, I had neither firewood nor enough oil for the fire pit. Now I pray to be spared from the discomforts of losing power, while saying a prayer of thanks for the provisions I was able to collect in between the storms. My home is ready for whatever the skies may bring.

As I go through my checklist for emergency preparedness, I find that I am still not at ease. Upon further reflection, the reason for the uneasiness is obvious - my lamp is not filled. I instantly come up with ways to better myself, but end up with what looks like a list of New Year's resolutions. In silence, I heed the call of scriptures as I browse through the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. The answer, the roadmap was here all along, and they were given to us by no less than the bridegroom himself – Jesus. Now, my list only consists of two questions... How have I fulfilled my duties to God and my neighbors? How have I practiced spiritual and corporal works of mercy? These simple questions have forced me to be answerable for some bitter realities, such as the time I devote to prayer, and the way I conduct my relationships with family and friends to name a few. I think it will be a long way before my lamp is filled and glaringly bright, but I thank the Lord for the guidance he offers. This lent, I pray that we can journey together as we fill our lamps with God's provisions as we accept Christ in our lives. *"...Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" Matthew 25:6*

February 11 - World Day of the Sick

Our Lady of Lourdes

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

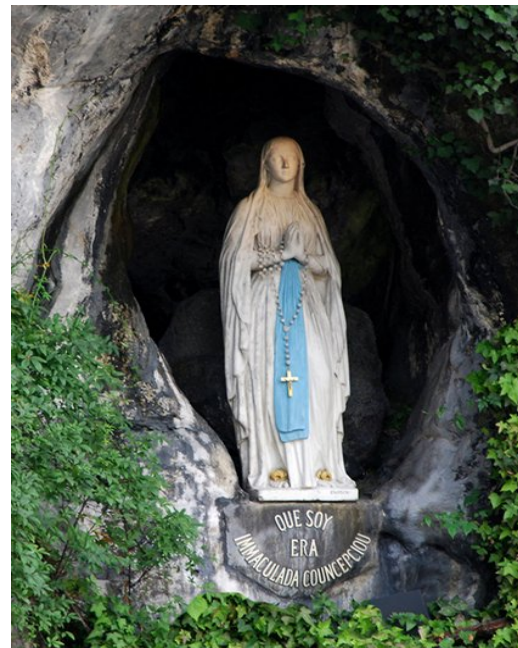
Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: “O Mary conceived without sin.”

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was “something white in the shape of a girl.” She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning “this thing.” It was “a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm.” Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Comment: Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus’ healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *Song of Bernadette*: “For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.”

Patron Saint of: Bodily ills



The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes, France

Source:<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1288>

Love Offering

Jan. 15, 2020 \$ 1,229.00
Jan. 22, 2010 \$ 896.00
Jan. 29, 2010 \$ 1,069.00
Feb. 05, 2010 No P&W
Feb. 12, 2010 No P&W

Thank you for your generosity!

February Calendar

Feb. 05 First Friday Eucharistic
Celebration-Cancelled
12 P&W Cancelled
19 Praise & Worship
26 Praise & Worship

Community Calendar

Feb. 22-25
Medical Mission (w/ BLD Newark)
Mauban, Quezon, Philippines
Mar. 5-7
YLSS# 4 *
May 7-9
LSS#10 *
Jun. 12
Agony in the Garden/
Washing of the Feet Retreat *
Jul. 9-12
Aspirants Retreat *
Jul. 31-Aug. 2 - FE#4
Malvern, PA
Sept. 17-19 -SPE#3
Holy Family, MD
Nov. 12-14 - ME#11
Dulles Hilton, VA

*Time & Venue – TBD
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.

Teaching Schedule

Feb. 13 - Basic Bible Seminar (make-up)
For LSS9 – 1:00-5:00 PM
Cajayon residence in Reston, VA
- Heart of Worship
For Singles – 2:00-4:00 PM
Salazar residence in Vienna, VA
Feb. 19 - Intro to Commitment
For commitment candidates
After P&W
OLV auditorium/classroom
Feb. 21 - 4 Basic Truths/Basics of Prayer
For SE3 – 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Juanitez residence
Feb. 26 - Basics of Prayer
For ME10 & make-up for others
After P&W
OLV auditorium/classroom
Feb. 27 - 4 Basic Truths
For ME10 & make-up for others
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Vienna, VA
- Christian Parenting
ME10 & make-up for other parents
1:00 - 5:00 PM
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Vienna, VA
- Spiritual Warfare
LSS7 & make-up for older classes
1:00 - 5:00 PM
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Vienna, VA
Feb. 28 - Teachings of Christ DVD Series
For Covenanted Members
Time & Venue TBD
- Christian Maturity Program 2
(Part3)
Repairing Wrongdoing/Suffering
LSS 8 & make-up for older classes
1:00 - 4:00 PM
McCarrick Center, Wheaton, MD
