



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

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsel

### *A Humble Servant*

**Theme:** We share life with Christ when we acknowledge our sinful nature.

**Word:** 2 Sm 12:7-10; 13, Ps 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11;  
Gal 2:16, 19-21; Lk 7:36-8:3 or 7:36-50

**Order:** “*Acknowledge your sin.*” Psalm 32:5

(BLD Global Community reflection for June 2010)

### **REFLECTION:**

This Sunday’s readings illustrate God’s willingness to forgive and His strong desire to repair relationships. We lay part in restoring that relationship by acknowledging our sinfulness and admitting the weaknesses of judgment.

Through the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, we learn that if we sincerely repent of our sins, God can and will forgive them all, just like the sins of David. God always seeks to call us back to faithfulness and fidelity to Him. Such is the grace of God, for without it, we can never repent and reconcile with Him when we sin.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Paul’s letter to the Galatians began with these words: “*We know that a person is justified, not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus.*” (Galatians 2:16) He was referring to forgiveness that can never be achieved through

good works alone. What God desires most is not outward sacrifices, but a humble spirit. We also know that Paul was not saying that the law itself was bad, because in Romans 7:12, he wrote “*the law itself is holy and right and good*”. Simply, St. Paul was just reminding us of three things about the law: (1) It guards us from sin; (2) It convicts us of sin, leaving us the opportunity to ask for God’s forgiveness; and (3) It drives us to trust in the sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel story, St. Luke relates an interaction between Jesus, Simon the Pharisee, who thought he was holy and righteous, and the woman who was not even named. This story of Simon and the sinful woman is a lesson in contrast. The opposing attitudes of Simon and this woman clearly show that we can either accept or reject the mercy of God. It prevented him from acknowledging his need for the grace of God. Jesus neither judged, nor rebuked the woman, as Simon had earlier expected, because she was a sinner. Instead, Jesus welcomed her, and said to her, “*Your sins are forgiven.*” (Luke 7:48)

Where does humility come in? God extends His forgiveness to anyone who admits the need for it, and gives grace and salvation to anyone who asks for it. Tonight, we want to consider the mark of humility. In Matthew 23:12, it says, “*For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*” Jesus reminds us that the way up is down. To be exalted, men must

humble themselves. He illustrated this principle throughout His life.

Why is humility an important part in our life? First and foremost, **humility is the proper attitude before God.** Obedience to Him begins with humility. Humility towards God is much like the fear of God. As we see God in His majesty, awesomeness and holiness, we are humbled before Him.

Next, **humility clarifies our dependence on God.** When our life falls apart, we should turn to God for directions and help. **Humility also keeps us from depending on our own strength.** In Joshua 7:6, it says, *“Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed down facing the Ark of the Lord until evening”*. When Joshua and his army went to war, he did not consult God, but instead, relied on the strength of his army to defeat a small city. Only after they were defeated did they turn to God and ask what happened.

**Humility is essential for service to others.** People today are just as eager to raise their social status, whether by being with the right people, dressing for success, or driving the right car. Surely, Simon, the Pharisee, did not impress God. Rather than aiming for prestige, let us instead look to serving God in humility. There are instances in outside organizations where status clashes with service. Jesus never suggested that leadership in His church entails privilege.

Lastly, **humility increases our appreciation for God.** A humble heart sees God’s goodness with clarity. We are no longer blinded by our pride, and thus, trust God’s mercy wholeheartedly. We also become honest in our prayers, allowing us to express our true feelings to Him, remembering that He is our all-knowing and all-powerful God, and that His love for us is everlasting!

What conclusion should we reach from tonight’s readings and Gospel story? None of us can claim any entitlements when we come before God.

Recognizing our nothingness before God precedes humility. Our challenge is to believe in and follow Jesus, who represents true forgiveness and humility. We can humble ourselves and truly attain forgiveness, if we genuinely repent for our sins, receive His mercy, and release all our guilt, shame and self-pity.

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Go to confession often.
2. Be quick to ask for forgiveness. Be ready to forgive.
3. Be vulnerable to each other, and be open to be ministered to.

**God’s Promise for the Week**

*“The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin; you shall not die.”* 2 Samuel 12:13



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**The Best Part of Waking Up**

*By Christopher Heffron*

I see the Morning Offering as a prayer of new beginnings. Derived from the League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus’ “Apostleship of Prayer,” it was begun in 1844 in Vals, France. For me, its origin only goes so far. The *significance*, however, travels much further.

Simply, it’s my daily appeal for a clean slate. My sins of yesterday cower in the face of my potential for good today. This is my chance. The day ahead is a large, blank canvas. To God, I

offer my finest paints and my greatest effort to create a work of art.

Some days I'm more creative than others. Still, the Morning Offering is my solemn promise: To God, who graced me with life, I will do my part to make it shine; to Mary, who gives warmth to the colder corners of my heart, I will use my gifts to make her smile.

I do this not only for myself: For my friends and family, those who bring color to my life, I am unyielding in my efforts to make this day a thing of beauty.

Of course, I'm not always successful. Try as I might, I am far from perfect. I am crammed with imperfections but I am also full of promise. I am a stumbling, sinning, redeeming, work-in-progress—a kind of graceful wreck. God knows this and, quite often, has caught me when I've lost my footing. And Lord knows, I fall often.

**The Blank Canvas** - It's one of the most unbearable sounds that I have ever known: the blaring of my alarm clock. It is 6:30 and, yet again, I am jolted from sleep by that intolerable noise.

“Gotta find that snooze button and hit it...*hard*.”

I wake to the same noise a brief 10 minutes later. Thus, my routine begins: I stumble out of bed, shower, put on my poorly ironed clothes and leave for work.

As tradition holds, I battle traffic. Angry drivers weave around me, glaring as they make their hurried way. But I'm too tired to care. My eyes are strained and weary. It's bumper-to-bumper now, with little hope of easing. Quietly, amid the chaos, an old favorite rises from the landscape of my half-slumbered mind: the Morning Offering.

I have known this prayer since I was 11. In the sixth grade, we were each assigned a prayer to read in front of the class and evaluate its meaning. The memory lingers still: With a pounding heart, apprehensive voice and shaky hands buried in my corduroys, I dove into my

interpretation of the prayer. After 17 years, it hasn't changed.

**What's the Story, Morning Glory?** - A great deal can happen in a day's time. The moment I walk out of my front door, I throw myself, freely, to the wolves of the day. I am vulnerable, but shielded.

With this prayer, I have offered it up. I have pledged allegiance and loyalty to God, to the large family of believers we call the Church, to our Holy Father and to those around me: my family, my friends and my colleagues.

This beloved prayer is my motivation to make the day ahead of me a meaningful, worthwhile undertaking. It is my conversation with God—my way of saying, with tired eyes, a willing heart and a sea of irritated drivers all around me, “Good morning.”

### *Morning Offering*

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer you my prayers, works,  
joys and sufferings of this day,  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
throughout the world.  
I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred  
Heart:  
the salvation of souls, reparation for sin,  
the reunion of all Christians.  
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops  
and of all Apostles of Prayer,  
and in particular for those recommended  
by our Holy Father this month. Amen.*

Source:<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Jan2004/prayers.asp#top>

**Love Offering:**

May 14, 2010 \$ 809.00  
May 21, 2010 \$ 903.00  
May 28, 2010 \$ 879.65  
June 04, 2010 \$1,023.00

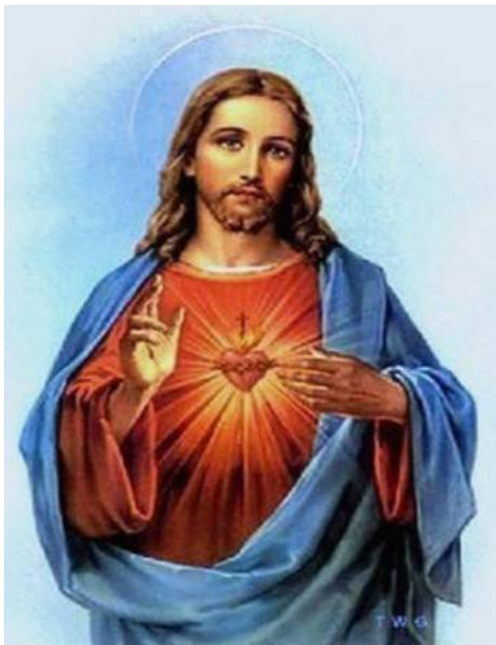
Thank you for your generosity!

**June Calendar:**

June 04 - First Friday Mass  
June 11 - Praise & Worship  
June 18 - Praise & Worship  
June 25 - Eucharistic Celebration  
(25 BLD Anniversary)

**Teaching Schedule:**

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



**The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
June 11**

**Community Calendar:**

**July 23-25**  
Aspirant's Retreat  
**Jul. 30-Aug. 1**  
Family Encounter #4  
Malvern, PA  
**August 22**  
Community Day  
**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.



**The Immaculate Heart of Mary  
June 12**