



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

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## *Counsel*

### *LOVING GOD*

**Theme:** The Lord's committed servants carry out works of mercy.

**Word:** Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14, 17, 30 - 37;  
Col 1:15-20, Lk 10: 25-

**Order:** 1. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind." (Lk. 10:27a)  
2. "Go and treat your neighbor with mercy." (Lk. 10:37)

*(BLD Global Community reflection for July 2010)*

### **REFLECTION:**

How should we love God?

The answer to this question is right in this Sunday's Gospel. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Lk 10:27

Otherwise stated, we are to give our 100% to God. We cannot love God, any less than this. We cannot love God half-heartedly, or conditionally. We are to love God all the time, in all circumstances, and above everything. The scripture also says that God's command to love Him is not distant. It is inscribed in our hearts and in the depths of our conscience.

The reality however, for most of us, is that loving God as He wants us, is a major challenge, because we are in a world full of hatred, greed, deception, exploitation and confusion. We live in a society where people are preoccupied with the pursuit of power, fame, fortune, worldly wealth and pleasures or self-aggrandizement. Hence, most of us have become oblivious to loving or serving God.

How can we refocus ourselves on Christ and give our whole being to our Lord?

Most of us here in BLD presumably know the answer to this question. We can refocus on our Lord by soaking ourselves in his word, by being compassionate to everyone, by doing acts of mercy towards our neighbors like a good Samaritan, by coming to church regularly, by attending our BLD Friday worships where we get refreshed and nourished by his word, by attending our BLD teachings so we can learn more about our Lord, by following Jesus as a good disciple, by actively participating in our ministry works, and basically by having Jesus in our hearts and just doing everything 'for the Lord'. When we are focused on our Lord, our way of life changes, our interests become more attuned to God, our decisions become based on truth only and our whole being clamor for what is Godly. Loving God becomes second nature to us when we constantly fill our hearts and minds with Jesus. We know that Christ is working in us when we become more God-fearing, more compassionate, more loving, more understanding, more prayerful, more giving and forgiving. We know that the Holy

Spirit indwells in our hearts when we have more peace of mind, when our tongues are tamed, when we are slow to anger and less judgmental, or when we find joy in serving others. We have love for Jesus in our hearts when we place the interests of others ahead of ours.

When we truly love God, we see his face in everyone around us. God wants us to love our neighbor as ourselves. This command is not difficult to follow if we believe that Jesus is indeed in the person of our neighbor. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus made us understand that our neighbor is the person in need of our help. Jesus thru this parable, taught us how to really love our neighbor. We should not be like the priest nor the Levite who, despite their education and social standing, avoided the victim who was left half-dead by the robbers, by passing on the opposite side of the road. We should be like the good Samaritan who, in spite of his lowly status, showed compassion and mercy for the victim, a total stranger, by pouring oil and wine over his wounds, bandaging them and carrying him to the inn-keeper for his care.

How many of us are like the priest and the Levites who prefer to ignore our neighbor who is in dire need of help? When faced with situations where someone needs our help, how many times have we looked away or gone the other way so as not to be bothered and avoid responsibility? This parable convicts all of us who are guilty of indifference to the needy and helpless.

As Mother Teresa exemplified the good Samaritan. "I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God"

***DIRECTIONS:***

1. Strengthen and sustain our corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
2. Revitalize/staff the Jeremiah Healing Ministry.

***God's Promise for the Week***

***"For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. The descendants of His servants shall inherit it, and those who love His name shall inhabit it."  
(Ps 69:37)***



Parable of the Good Samaritan

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***The Journey begins at Steubenville***

June 18-20, 2010 had been marked off on my calendar for months, labeled simply: Steubenville, Ohio. Many people would ask, "What is in Ohio?" To tell you the truth, I could not answer this simple question. What *was* in Ohio other than fishing, hunting, and empty land? Little did I know, it was in Ohio where I found something that went beyond everything that I had expected. It was in Ohio where lives would be changed.

On this hot weekend of June, 11 members of BLD Youth Washington D.C. crammed into a van for seven hours, heading towards our destination that we perceived to be in the middle of nowhere: Steubenville, Ohio. Seven hours, little sleep, and a

couple of Advils later, we arrived in a place that was anything *but* the middle of nowhere. We drove onto the campus of Franciscan University, and found 2,000 other teenagers there for the weekend.

I had heard several times that this conference would be a life-changing experience. I had my doubts. How was this going to be any different from all the other retreats that I had been to? I did not know what to expect from this retreat. As in past retreats, there were the amazing speakers, the uplifting music, and the heartwarming environment. However, it wasn't until that Saturday night when everything changed. It was that Saturday night when the monstrance was brought out carrying the Eucharistic host. And it was that night during Adoration when I felt Jesus walk right up to me—out of all the other 2,000 people—and embrace me and tell me that He loved me.

Until that point, I thought I had experienced everything there was to experience in all of the other retreats I had been to. I had felt that I already experienced the extent of God's love. But that is one of the things I learned: there *is* no extent to God's love. It goes beyond all comprehension or logical reasoning. Have you ever witnessed 2,000 other youths transformed right before your eyes? Have you ever seen God reach to thousands of people surrounding you—holding each one of us? Have you ever been in a fieldhouse with these 2,000 teenagers chanting "Jesus" to the point where you could not even hear your own voice? I had never seen so many people excited about God, and it was lifting, to tell you the truth. It gave me hope; God was still transforming the world day by day.

Who said that we could never start over? Who in the world said I had no right to be loved, to have a place in God's arms? Who made me think that I was not good enough? But was it not true? Was it not true that I did not deserve anything that God had given me? I did not deserve even half of the love he showed to me. In a way, whoever made me think that way—they were right.

But He proved all of them wrong: We started over. He forgave me. He pulled me out of that closet that

I hid in when I felt I had pushed myself over the edge—when I had gotten to the point where I thought that no one could love me anymore. He held me in his arms. He saw me in the crowd of 2,000 people and looked me straight in the eye. Of all the people in the world, He held me like I was the most important.

I had witnessed something beautiful in the 11 people who accompanied me to Ohio, in the 2,000 other teenagers that were there, and, most importantly, in myself. I could write for forever about how great our God is, how He can overcome any barrier, how he can tear down the walls around our hearts, how He can see us amongst millions and make us feel like the most important person in the world. *Jesus, I am so in love with you.* Because it was You that showed me what love truly is, it was You who pulled me out of the darkness and pain, it was You that loved me when I was nothing to love. And for that, I am eternally grateful.



**2010 Franciscan University Youth Conference  
Theme**

**"The Word Became Flesh"**

***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father."***

**-- John 1:14**

**Love Offering:**

June 04, 2010 \$1,023.00  
June 11, 2010 \$ 807.32  
June 18, 2010 \$1,190.00  
June 25, 2010 \$1,195.00  
July 02, 2010 \$ 795.00

Thank you for your generosity!

**July Calendar:**

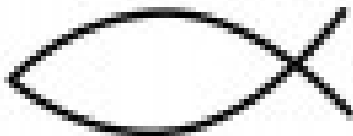
July 02 - First Friday Mass  
July 09 - Praise & Worship  
July 16 - Praise & Worship  
July 23 - Praise & Worship  
July 30 - Praise & Worship

**Community Calendar:**

July 23-25  
Aspirant's Retreat  
Jul. 30-Aug. 1  
Family Encounter #5  
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:**

Friday, July 9 @ OLV  
8:00-10:30 PM  
Movie & Discussion: Prince Caspian  
For Mark 10

Friday, Aug. 13 @ OLV  
8:00-10:30 PM  
Movie & Discussion: Facing the Giants  
For Youth/John6

Saturday, Aug. 14  
McCarrick Center  
9:30AM-12NN  
New Creation Realities  
Growth in Prayer  
For LSS10 & older

Saturday, August 14  
McCarrick Center  
1PM-4PM  
EWJ: Gospel of Matthew, Luke & John  
For LSS9 & older

Sunday, August 15  
McCarrick Center  
10AM-4PM  
CMP2: Giving, Witnessing, Understanding  
Corporate Worship  
Advanced Intercession  
For LSS8 & older

Sunday, August 15  
McCarrick Center  
12NN-4PM  
Teachings of Jesus Christ  
For Covenanted members

Sunday, August 29  
Christian Servanthood\*

Sunday, September 26  
Healing & Deliverance\*

Saturday, October 23  
Spiritual Warfare\*

\*Time and location TBD