



BLD WASHINGTON
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

SERVICE AND PRAYER

Theme: The Lord's committed servants find joy in prayer and service.

Word: Gn 18:1-10a; Ps 15:2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10: 38-42

Order: *“Walk without blame, do what is right, speak the truth from the heart.”*
(Ps. 15:2)

(BLD Global Community reflection for July 2010)

REFLECTION:

Jesus was an important man and Martha was determined to give Him the love and honor He deserved. She considered it of utmost importance to care for the fine points of service so that Jesus and His entourage would have a good time while at their home. With all her good intentions, she slowly realized that it was difficult to make the visit of Jesus perfect as there were a lot of items she had to address. In her quest for their comfort she was overwhelmed and therefore complained. Because of this, Jesus gently corrected her.

Martha, though preoccupied with minor items, was also mighty in Spirit because she recognized that to serve was to act in praise of Christ. Her realization that the love Jesus bestowed on her was a gift made her over-concerned on how to please Him. She had

a thankful heart which found its way into her yet imperfect service.

Looking at the goodness of Martha's heart, I wish to highlight her service for the Lord as a natural outpouring of her love for Christ.

On the other hand, we find Mary, Martha's sister, as a devoted and dedicated student at the feet of Jesus. We see her not only totally focused on Jesus but with an attitude of humble submission. Jesus found in her a heart of devotion and love for the things of God. Her authentic devotion never faded and was not influenced by earthly motivations, on what she could do or gain for herself, but came from her true love for God. She was not drawn aside by earthly worries and Jesus was quick to take note of this by contrasting her sister's human efforts with the devotion she had. Her love and service for Jesus grew and was strengthened each time she was in His presence. Mary was a model of devotion and dedication to our Lord's cause, a perfectly submitted student of Jesus.

Each person has certain inclinations on how things should be done and areas where they can excel in serving God and His people. The gifts that God has given each man can be used to express praise to Him, especially if one will use them with a grateful and joyful heart. But they also can be a source of adversity if they become one's avenue for seeking worldly honor and prestige. This highlights a guiding principle for all of us who endeavor to work in the Father's vineyard that one should not be lost in the mechanics of service. Every man should not

forget Who enables one to serve and Whom one is serving.

As we serve God, the choice for excellence in Christ is ours. We can only achieve this when we unite our service with our prayer life, when we make the Holy Mass the center of our interior life, and when we seek to be with Jesus from moment to moment.

Our aspiration is to go to Mass everyday and make it the center and the root of our interior life so that our whole day will turn into an act of worship and an extension of our daily Eucharistic celebration. This can only overflow into divine meditation, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and the offering up of our professional work and family life to God. With His grace in us, He will transform our life of service into a life of prayer, making it an acceptable love offering to our Heavenly Father. Prayer, through the Holy Mass, is the center of our heroic dedication and submission to work for God and the root that will nourish our interior struggle to unite our service and our spirits with our Lord in penance for our sins.

Truly, everything in our lives is the work of God when the centrality of our service is prayer; when it becomes a true journey of prayer, of intimacy with God, identifying with Christ in his complete self-giving for the salvation of the world.

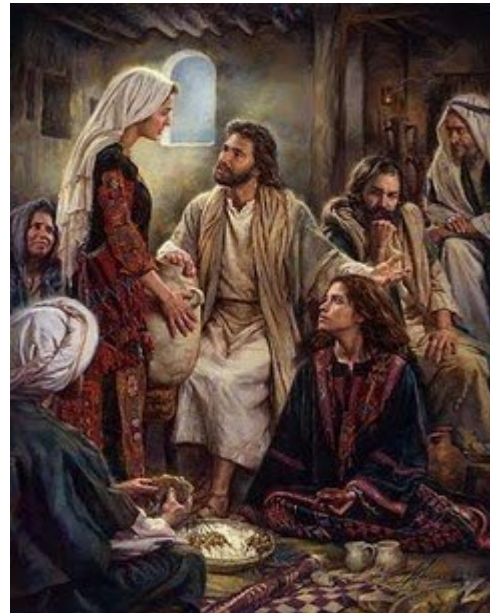
Thanks to our union with Christ's sacrifice, our service and prayer have great sanctifying value as our individual lives become authentic offerings to God. With Him in our hearts, we are all transformed-our humble service is turned into a prayer of praise and worship and our prayer become an offering of endless love for our Lord!

DIRECTIONS:

1. Live in the presence of God.
2. Make your daily life a prayerful offering of worship to God.

God's Promise for the Week

"One who does these things shall never be disturbed."(Ps.15:5)



M & M (Martha and Mary)

"Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him to her home. She had a sister named Mary." —Luke 10:38-39

Some people say they are like Martha; others say they are like Mary. However, the Lord is not calling us to be Martha or Mary, but Martha and Mary.

We should imitate Abraham, Sarah, and Martha by making great sacrifices in offering hospitality. Prior to our high-tech times, a family began preparing a meal by picking out a steer and working with flour (Gn 18:6-7). No freezer, microwaves, or packaged foods! To offer hospitality was a monumental, sacrificial task. We can understand why Martha

complained about being left alone to do such daunting household tasks (Lk 10:40).

We also need to imitate Mary by sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to His words (Lk 10:39). This too is a formidable task. Listening to someone, especially to God, is often more challenging than the hardest work.

All workers must be listening to the Lord, or they won't know what they're doing or why they're doing it. All listeners need to do some working. Those who hear God's word must do God's word, or they will be deceiving themselves (Jas 1:22). "Work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation" (Phil 2:12). Only those who are like both Martha and Mary are like Jesus. Be like Jesus.

Prayer: Father, teach me to work, listen, and sacrifice.

Source: <http://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?d=7/19/1998>

Community Calendar:

- July 23-25
Aspirant's Retreat
Embassy Suites Dulles North, VA
- July 30-Aug. 1
Family Encounter #5
Malvern, PA
- August 21, 2010
Community Recollection & Mass
Time and Venue TBD
- September 24-26
Solo Parent Encounter #3
Holy Family Seminary
Silver Spring, MD
- November 12-14
Marriage Encounter #11
Dulles Hilton, VA

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

Love Offering:

June 18, 2010 \$1,190.00
June 25, 2010 \$1,195.00
July 02, 2010 \$ 799.00
July 09, 2010 \$ 957.11

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

Teaching Schedule:

- Aug. 13 @ OLV
8:00-10:30 PM – For Youth/John6
Movie & Discussion: Facing the Giants
- Aug. 14 @ McCarrick Center
9:30AM-12NN - For LSS10 & older
New Creation Realities/ Growth in Prayer
- Aug. 14 @ McCarrick Center
1PM-4PM - For LSS9 & older
EWJ: Gospel of Matthew, Luke & John
- Aug. 15 @ McCarrick Center
10AM-4PM - For LSS8 & older
CMP2: Giving, Witnessing, Understanding
Corporate Worship/Advanced Intercession
- Aug. 15 @ McCarrick Center
12NN-4PM - For Covenanted members
Teachings of Jesus Christ
- Aug. 29 - Christian Servanthood*
- Sept. 26 - Healing & Deliverance*
- Oct. 23 - Spiritual Warfare*

*Time and location TBD