



BLD WASHINGTON
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Stewardship

Theme: New life in Christ is faithfulness to do His work.

Word: Wis 18:6-9, Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22, Heb 11:1-2, 8-19, Lk 12:32-48

Order: “*You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*” (Lk 12:40)

(BLD Global Community reflection for August 2010)

REFLECTION:

There are actually two scenarios in the Gospel reading this 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. One refers to the Second Coming of Jesus, the Christ, and the other, to the call for us to prepare to meet our God. The Gospel starts off with analogy to the culture of the people of Palestine at the time of Jesus when wealth was measured in terms of costly garments which moths can destroy and leave these fine clothes in ruin.

Against this backdrop, Our Lord presents, in comparison, a man who chooses to clothe his soul with the garments of honor, purity and goodness which nothing on earth can harm, or destroy. What Our Lord is saying is that if a man seeks the treasures of heaven, his heart will be fixed on heaven. But if he seeks the treasures of earth, his heart will be tied up with the things of this world,

and the day will come when he must bid these earthly treasures goodbye.

In explaining the parable to His disciples, Our Lord speaks of the need for servants to be ever-watchful of the coming of their Master. There is always praise waiting for the servant who is found ready and mindful when his Master arrives. As no one could predict when the call of God would come, the question is how to prepare for that time. Even more importantly, how do we want God to find us when He comes?

Needless to say, as in the parable, we definitely would want to have completed our work when He comes. But our lives are often filled with so many loose ends, things that remain undone or half-done, things that we put off to some other time or opportunity, and things that we have not even started doing. This is where we frequently fall short. Jesus himself says: “***I have accomplished the work which Thou gavest me to do***” (JN 17:4). Thus, no one among us should leave a task undone that we need to finish before night falls, for we know not the hour at which our Master will come.

We also would like God to find us at peace with our fellowmen. Indeed, when He comes, God would want to find us living in harmony with one another. The worst thing that can happen to man is to leave this life and cross over to the next with bitterness, resentment and, unforgiveness in his heart. Paul reminds us in Eph 4:26 that “***no man should let the sun go down on his anger.***”

While it is true that there is no perfect community and that a community such as *Bukas Loob sa Diyos* is made up of individuals of different persuasions and attitudes, the formative years members spend in the community should help us to come to a realization that we are nothing, and that our lives and the world in which we live are temporary, and that our final destination is heaven where only those who have completed their work are allowed entry. We also would like God to find us at peace with ourselves.

The second scenario shows Jesus painting a comparative picture of the wise and the unwise steward. In his time, a steward enjoys immense power. A steward may also be a slave but he has control over the other slaves and manages his master's house as well as his estate. The unwise steward makes two mistakes. He tells himself: "I will do what I like while my master is away," forgetful that the day of reckoning will come. This is not unlike compartmentalized living, in which there is a part where God is present, and another section which is closed off to God; like drawing a line between what is sacred and what is secular. But if we are truly Christian disciples, we will know that there is really no moment in life when the Master is away. Our lives are forever under the scrutiny of Our Lord.

This unwise steward also makes an assumption that could be fatal: "I have plenty of time to put things right before the master comes." To this steward Jesus in John 9:4 says: "***We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night comes when no one can work.***" Indeed, one of the most dangerous words in our vocabulary is 'tomorrow' because it allows us to put off what we can accomplish today. What Jesus is simply saying is that we should not put off anything that we have started, especially putting to right our relationship with others. It is pointless to be in a community when we cannot commune with one another in a spirit of love.

The Gospel passage ends with a warning that knowledge and privilege bring greater

accountability to the man who had every chance to do his task well.

"Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom." (Lk 12:32). But at the end of the day, Our Lord will take stock of how well we have performed the tasks He has given us. Do you think then that man with all his excess baggage (pride, envy, gluttony, sloth, lust, avarice, wrath, bitterness, resentments and, unforgiveness) will be allowed into his Kingdom and be given eternal life? Think again.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Sell you belongings and give alms.
2. Have faith.
3. Revisit composition of BOT

God's Promise for the Week

Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom." (Lk 12:32)

July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola



This famous founder of the Jesuits was born in 1491. He was from a Spanish noble family. As a boy, he was sent to be a page at the royal court. There he lived on the desire to someday become a great soldier and marry a beautiful lady. Later, he did, indeed, win honor for his courage in the battle of Pamplona.

However, a wound from a cannon ball forced him to spend months in bed at Loyola Castle. Ignatius asked for some books to read. He preferred stories

of knights, but only biographies of Jesus and the saints were available. Having nothing else to do, he read them. Gradually, the books began to make an impression on him. His life began to change. He said to himself: "These were men and women like me, so why can't I do what they have done?" All the glory he had wanted before seemed worthless now. He began to imitate the saints in their prayers, penances and good works.

St. Ignatius had to suffer temptations and humiliations. Before he could begin his great work of starting the Society of Jesus, he had to go back to school. He had to study Latin grammar. The rest of the students were little boys and Ignatius was thirty-three. Yet Ignatius went to the class because he knew he would need this knowledge to help him in his ministry. With patience and even a laugh now and then, he took the boys' jeers and taunts. During this time, he tried to teach and encourage people to pray. For this he was suspected of heresy and put in jail for a while! But that was not going to stop Ignatius. "The whole city does not contain as many chains as I desire to wear for love of Jesus," he said. Ignatius was forty-three when he graduated from the University of Paris. With six other students, he professed religious vows in 1534. Ignatius and his companions who were not yet priests were ordained in 1539. They promised to work for God in whatever way the Holy Father thought best. In 1540 their order was officially recognized by the pope. Before Ignatius died, there were one thousand members of the Society of Jesus or "Jesuits." They were doing much good work teaching and preaching. Ignatius often prayed, "Give me only your love and your grace. With this I am rich enough, and I have no more to ask." St. Ignatius died in Rome, on July 31, 1556. Pope Gregory XV proclaimed him a saint in 1622.

Reflection: *Let us pray today in the words of St. Ignatius Loyola: "Give me only your love and your grace. With this I am rich enough, and I have no more to ask."*

[Source: http://hsionline.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=33&Itemid=200](http://hsionline.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=33&Itemid=200)

Love Offering:

July 09, 2010 \$ 957.11
 July 16, 2010 \$ 780.00
 July 23, 2010 \$ 724.00
 July 30, 2010 \$ 451.00

Thank you for your generosity!

July Calendar:

August 06 - First Friday Mass
 August 13 - Praise & Worship
 August 20 - Praise & Worship
 August 27 - Praise & Worship

Community Calendar:

August 7-8, 2010
 Recollection and Consultation
 with Archbishop Lagdameo
 Archdiocesan Center
 171 Clifton Avenue,
 Newark, NJ 07104
 August 21, 2010
 Community Recollection & Mass
 9:00 AM–4:00 PM, Venue TBD
 August 29, 2010
 Community Day (Picnic)
 Bretton Woods, Potomac, MD
 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.

Reminder:

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

Teaching Schedule:

**SATURDAY, August 14
McCarrick Center, Basement Rm 1
Silver Spring, MD**

- NEW CREATION REALITIES
9:30 - 10:30 AM (LSS10 & older)
Discover how baptism has made you a new creation in Christ!
- GROWTH IN PRAYER
10:30 - 12:00 NN (LSS 10 & older)
Learn how to grow in your spiritual life through prayer!
- Encounter with Jesus: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW
1:00 - 2:00 PM (LSS9 & older)
Encounter Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew
- Encounter with Jesus: GOSPEL OF LUKE
2:00 - 3:00 PM (LSS 9 & older)
Meet Jesus in the Gospel of Luke
- Encounter with Jesus: GOSPEL OF JOHN
3:00 - 4:30 PM (LSS 9 & older)
Get to know Jesus in the Gospel of John

**SUNDAY, August 15
McCarrick Center, Basement Rm 1
Silver Spring, MD**

- Christian Maturity Program II: GIVING
1:00 - 2:00 PM (LSS 8 & older)
Learn how to give back to the Lord in return for all His blessings
- Christian Maturity Program II: WITNESSING
2:00 - 3:00 PM (LSS 8 & older)
Learn how to be a martyr (or witness) for the Faith
- UNDERSTANDING CORPORATE WORSHIP
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (LSS 8 & older)
Deepen your worship experience by understanding what goes on in P&W

**SUNDAY, August 15
McCarrick Center, Rm 2/3
Silver Spring, MD**

- TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST BY
FR. JOHN CORAPI (covenanted members)
1:00 - 4:00 PM
Learn more about the treasure of our Catholic Faith