



BLD WASHINGTON
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Strive To Enter Through The Narrow Gate

Theme: New Life in Christ is accepting God's discipline.

Word: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1-2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

Order: *"Strive to enter through the narrow gate."* (Lk 13:24)

(BLD Global Community reflection for August 2010)

REFLECTION:

One of the major themes of this Sunday's first reading and Gospel is summed up in the Psalm refrain- *"Go out to all the world and tell the good news,"* (Mk 16:15) the good news that the love of God knows no limits and is offered to everyone. Isaiah not only foretells in glowing terms a future time when non-Jews will come to Jerusalem to worship in the Jewish temple but he also prophesies that among those Gentiles, God will choose some to be *"priests and Levites."* Both Isaiah and Luke stretch our vision to an open door policy of God's plan where exclusivism has no place. This vision is just as true now as it was during the Biblical times. It invites its hearers to rethink their own narrow understanding of how and to whom salvation is offered.

GOD'S LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE! Yet, *"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"* (Lk 13: 23) He does not answer the question about the number because God does not have a quota. Jesus instead uses two images to answer the question: the narrow gate and the locked door. The narrow gate points to the necessity of faith for admittance. His kingdom is open and He wants all to be saved. The locked door refers to tardiness and indifference in making the response. He does not force anybody to enter but He seeks our generous response and cooperation which may demand serious effort at times.

The second reading says, *"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges.' Endure your trials as discipline."* (Heb12: 5b-7a) It is never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined more so if this comes from a brethren in community. It is easy to feel hurt, humiliated, even rejected because we see the discipline coming from an earthly source. Will it still be so hurtful if we realize that it is the Father who is disciplining us through our brethren? God's discipline is a sign that He is our Father and we are His children whom He loves deeply. There is no discipline of God which does not take its source in love and is not aimed at something good. No life can have any value apart from discipline. Do we accept and handle our trials and difficulties with anger and rebellion, self-pity and resignation or do we accept them with full understanding and gratitude as Jesus modeled for us on the Cross?

Are we the same person in community and outside of community? Things may not always be what they seem. What brings pain today, if taken gracefully will produce an upright spirit, strengthened by adversity that may later bring joy and *“bring forth the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.”* (Heb 12:11)

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” (Lk 13:24) The Christian life does take effort. It means earnestly desiring to know Jesus and diligently striving to follow Him whatever the cost. It means acknowledging our sins, accepting and giving forgiveness, turning away from sin and trusting in God to save us. It means leading a life of self-giving and detachment, going the extra mile, turning the other cheek, giving our own cloak. All of us in the BLD community realize the great gift that have been given us, the renewal and rejuvenation of our faith and love for God through our close encounter with Him. Are we then really home safe? Are we assured of our heavenly home after we have gone through our discipleship formation program, became covenanted, and served in many of our numerous activities? As disciples of Christ, our responsibilities do not just start on Friday night and end on Sunday night. Just saying, *“We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.”* (Lk 13: 26) is not sufficient. We cannot be under the illusion that maintaining a loose relationship or association with Jesus is enough to say we are His followers. Community life presents new challenges in living our faith. What is needed is faith with works.

“So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees... that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.” (Heb 12: 12) So let us be examples to one another in our behavior and attitude, in our speech, in our mission works of love and compassion that we may more effectively spread the love of God to those who are weak, poor and needy in our midst. Let us lean and support one another, defer and listen to each other with love. Then, the narrow path that leads to

heaven becomes a broad way for those who love and live the Way of Christ.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Endure your trials as discipline.
2. Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
3. Make straight paths for your feet.
4. Bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the Lord.

God’s Promise for the Week

“All discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.”
(Heb 12:11)

August 21

St. Pius X (1835-1914)



Pope Pius X is perhaps best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children.

The second of 10 children in a poor Italian family, Joseph Sarto became Pius X at 68, one of the twentieth century’s greatest popes.

Ever mindful of his humble origin, he stated, “I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.” He was embarrassed by some of the pomp of the papal court. “Look how they have dressed me up,” he

said in tears to an old friend. To another, “It is a penance to be forced to accept all these practices. They lead me around surrounded by soldiers like Jesus when he was seized in Gethsemani.”

Interested in politics, he encouraged Italian Catholics to become more politically involved. One of his first papal acts was to end the supposed right of governments to interfere by veto in papal elections—a practice that reduced the freedom of the conclave which had elected him.

In 1905, when France renounced its agreement with the Holy See and threatened confiscation of Church property if governmental control of Church affairs were not granted, Pius X courageously rejected the demand.

While he did not author a famous social encyclical as his predecessor had done, he denounced the ill treatment of indigenous peoples on the plantations of Peru, sent a relief commission to Messina after an earthquake and sheltered refugees at his own expense.

On the eleventh anniversary of his election as pope, Europe was plunged into World War I. Pius had foreseen it, but it killed him. “This is the last affliction the Lord will visit on me. I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge.” He died a few weeks after the war began. He was canonized in 1954.

Comment: His humble background was no obstacle in relating to a personal God and to people whom he loved genuinely. He gained his strength, his gentleness and warmth for people from the source of all gifts, the Spirit of Jesus. In contrast, we often feel embarrassed by our backgrounds. Shame makes us prefer to remain aloof from people whom we perceive as superior. If we are in a superior position, on the other hand, we often ignore simpler people. Yet we, too, have to help “restore all things in Christ,” especially the wounded people of God.

Quote: Describing Pius X, a historian wrote that he was “a man of God who knew the unhappiness

of the world and the hardships of life, and in the greatness of his heart wanted to comfort everyone.”

[Source: http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/Saint.aspx?id=1114](http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/Saint.aspx?id=1114)

Love Offering:

July 16, 2010 \$ 780.00
July 23, 2010 \$ 724.00
July 30, 2010 \$ 451.00
Aug 06, 2010 \$ 785.25

[Thank you for your generosity!](#)

August Calendar:

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

Community Calendar:

August 21, 2010
Community Recollection & Mass
9:00 AM–4:00 PM
St. Raphael Catholic Church
Rockville, MD
August 29, 2010
Community Day Picnic & Mass
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Bretton Woods Recreation Center
Potomac, MD
September 24-26, 2010
Solo Parent Encounter #3
Holy Family Seminary
Silver Spring, MD
November 12-14, 2010
Marriage Encounter #11
Dulles Hilton, VA

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