



BLD WASHINGTON
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

BE HUMBLE OF HEART

Theme: New life in Christ is conducting our affairs with humility.

Word: Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29;
Ps 68:4-5,6-7,10-11;
Heb 12:18-19,22-24a;
Lk 14:1, 7-14

Order: *“Conduct your affairs with humility.”*
(Sir 3:17)

(BLD Global Community reflection for August 2010)

REFLECTION:

In heaven there is no Saint who was not humble. (“Humility of Heart” by Fr. Caetano) He also wrote that “pride is the first and the greatest of all (spiritual vices) which is able to transform an angel into a demon!” And the bible tells us that God banished Angels from Heaven because of their pride. It just shows us that no one can enter heaven without being humble.

Humility may be called the starting gate in our race to heaven. It is the first of the many lessons set before us by the Lord in His school of sanctity called Life. It is a difficult lesson, and one which our fallen nature seeks to avoid at all cost or to put off indefinitely, but for anyone who wants to graduate to eternal life, it is a pre-requisite.

Jesus Christ calls all of us to Himself to learn, not to work miracles nor to astonish the world with great learning or enterprises, but to be humble of heart. *“...learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.”* (Matthew 11:29) He has not called everyone to be doctors, teachers or priests, nor has He bestowed on all the gift to restore sight to the blind, to raise the dead or cast out evil spirits, but to all He has said: “Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart.” Humility contains all things because in this virtue is truth; and God is Truth.

Our Lord Jesus reminds us all His disciples and followers that we must learn this lesson well by heart, and into our very nature and being; because Humility is the very foundation on which every other virtue is formed and built up. It is the soil in the garden of the soul, “the good ground” on which the Divine Sower goes forth to sow His seed. Bukas ang loob sa Diyos.

Humility is, in a very special way, the basis of charity. “The dwelling place of charity is humility”, says St Augustine. We cannot take an interest in other people and attend to their needs, if we cannot forget about our own. Many sins against charity have been caused by vanity, pride, selfishness and the inordinate desire to receive attention and praise. *“Do not recline at table in the place of honor ...but rather when you are invited, go and take the lowest place.”* (Luke 14:8a,10a.)

Humility is the virtue that helps us accept the truth about ourselves. The truth that we are human

Reflection on Pastoral Visit of Archbishop Angel Lagdameo

beings who need help and need love. No one has the right to look down on others. Each one of us is God's favorite one. Each of us has special gifts and talents from God, to be used for His very own special purpose.

To be humble is to be patient with one another, giving each other time to make mistakes and to learn from them; to be humble is to forgive each other, reserving judgment for God alone; to be humble is to pray for one another, lifting each other up if we fall. ***“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted”*** (Luke 14:11)

Before BLD, I was haughty, arrogant, ill-tempered and impatient. But God through circumstances both difficult and painful, has brought me to my knees and humbled me. That was the only way he could get my attention, to wake me up and open my eyes to the evil of my ways. In my conceit and hardness of heart, I fell from my perch, down into the mud of my sinfulness. That was the beginning of my walk with the Lord, as he led me from the bottom of the pit into a new sonship with the Father. Without humility, there is no peace, without humility there is only darkness. Light came into this world because of Mary's humility. Because of Jesus' humility we can look to a glorious feast with our heavenly Father. Mama Mary may we become like your son, meek and humble of heart, Amen.

Direction:

1. Do not choose the places of honor.
2. Make a home for the poor.
3. Provide for the needy.
4. Lead forth those in bondage to prosperity.

God's Promise for the week

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Lk 14:11)

We were honored to have been invited to participate in the recently-concluded Recollection and Consultation with His Excellency Abp Angel Lagdameo, BLD Global Spiritual Director, together with our BLD brethren from the different Districts in the USA and Manila.

We were touched by the eloquence and deep spiritual faith of the Archbishop who, though frail looking in his physique, stood tall like a strong pillar, at the same time exuding the light that somehow gave special emphasis to what the BLD is all about. We loved how he interspersed talking about deep-seated Christian and BLD discipline with funny anecdotes and relevant jokes, keeping the attendees focused on the topics of discussion. He spoke with honesty and clarity about relevant matters that confront the BLD leadership, the covenanted as well as other members. At the same time he challenged everyone not to be complacent and satisfied with merely looking out after one's personal salvation and enjoying BLD fellowship, but to go out of our comfort zones and evangelize outside of the BLD community, consonant with the exhortation in 1Peter 2:9. He encouraged us to participate in the life and mission of the Church.

The panel headed by Tito Richard Dela Fuente held the more than 300 participants in constant order and state of attention by the well prepared topics of discussion and overall programme of activities, be they group deliberations or even breaks.

The group reflections and discussions on the Talk Topics were very effective and thought provoking. The discussions of our group members who all belonged to the same apostolate, but from different Districts and in various ministry assignments, bared out the fact that we all encountered or experienced common problems regarding exercise of authority, discipleship, servanthood, and discipline among members. It was in these circles

of honest-to-goodness discussions that friends and alliances were found, and new inspirations for new directions or missions encouraged and honed.

What truly touched us were the homily and exhortation of Abp Lagdameo, reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5, Verses 1-11, the gist of which is, *“Put out into deep waters and lower your nets for a catch.”* And, *“Do not be afraid; henceforth, you will be catching men.”*

In his homily, Abp Lagdameo stressed that we should not be afraid to leave our present comfort zones, to go out of our way, and to “put out into deep waters and lower our nets for a catch,” meaning to evangelize outside of BLD, in our parishes, in our places of work or the community we live in. These deep waters need not be far away; they could be just around the corner – where we live or work in, where there are struggling Christians we could help lead back to the faith. When we took our covenant to be disciples of Christ, we vowed to follow Christ and do His work. We know that Christ is the Master of our boat which is the Church, and through it we get prepared to be fishers of men. It is for this reason that He came into the world, to bring us all to the Love of the Father. To carry this task out, the Lord charges all of us who claim to be His disciples, to cast out our nets, and perhaps we can follow the lead of St Peter and boldly say that we would no longer be afraid, and to tell Him lovingly, “Jesus, in Your Name, we will seek souls.”

In the past, as a gesture of thanksgiving for all our blessings, we as a couple went out of our way to evangelize and help the poorest of the poor in typhoon-ravaged relocation communities, back in our home country, for four years. We even attempted serious involvement in the Gawad Kalinga project. We did what we could to lift up the spirits of those communities but, because of distance, time, and financial constraints, we found our efforts short of the victory we had aspired for. And now, we are again challenged by a deep desire to heed the call ... to go out of our comfort zones and answer the challenge of Abp Lagdameo to

once again “cast our nets into deep waters.” Perhaps, however, this time, we need not go too far out, as we invite brothers and sisters in the Lord for our upcoming Marriage Encounter No. 11, to cast out our nets in the waters of Norfolk, or Virginia Beach, with the end in view of “catching” new members, even establishing BLD prayer groups in these areas.

We know that what we plan to embark upon will not be easy but, with the support of the Leadership of BLD Washington, and by the Grace of God, we just know in our hearts that this will come to fruition.

Love Offering:

July 30, 2010 \$ 451.00
Aug 06, 2010 \$ 785.25
Aug. 13, 2010 \$ 884.41
Aug. 20, 2010 \$ 888.00

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 29, 2010
Community Day Picnic
Bretton Woods Recreation Center
Potomac, MD (10:00AM-4:00 PM)
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.

**Recollection and Consultation with His Excellency,
Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Aug. 7-8, 2010**

