

BLD WASINGTON



BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsels

Baptism of the Lord

Theme: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who fear the Lord and act uprightly.

Word: Is 42: 1- 4, 6-7, Ps 29: 1-4, 9-10, Acts 10: 34-38, Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

Order: God's love is glorified in the sonship of Jesus.

(BLD Global Community reflection for January 2010)

REFLECTION:

Throughout the ages, we have celebrated Christmas as a season, with the twelve days between Christmas and the Epiphany as one long holy "day." Actually, the season ends today as we celebrate the Lord's baptism and marks the close of the liturgical season of Christmas, and signals the start of the first period of ordinary time.

But what is this moment, all about - Jesus being baptized by John in the River Jordan? By the banks of the river we see Him standing in line, awaiting his turn, along with the crowds of sinners turning to God through the pathway of repentance. The water of the River Jordan that day was filled with all kinds of sin, all kinds of people who came to repent. And there, the sinless One humbly submits Himself to this rite. The

Lord was setting an example of humility for us to follow.

It was at the time of His baptism by John that Jesus received the call from God to begin His ministry of salvation, declaring Him as His Son, prophet and king of His people. Jesus' public ministry begins with the act of compassion and solidarity with humankind. He starts His life as a traveling preacher by identifying with us, taking upon His shoulders the tremendous burden and responsibility for our sins. The occasion is symbolic of what His work on earth is all about.

God the Father attests to the divinity of the Son at the moment of His baptism and, by this means, Jesus "*manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him.*" (Jn 2:11). It was such an important moment, the Spirit of God took possession of Him in a very special way and the heavens rang out with approval. "*This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased*", Lk 3:22. In Isaiah 42:1 and Acts 10: 38, we are told: "*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, that he might be revealed to Israel*" as it's Messiah.

The baptism of the Lord is a great feast; here the Holy Trinity is manifested for the first time. The Father speaks from heaven, the Son is present, and the Holy Spirit descends. Today's feast reminds us of our own baptism and presents us with an opportunity to reflect on the implications of leading the

life of a Christian. It's a time of special importance because it marks our spiritual birth - the beginning of the Lord reaching down, touching our lives, claiming us for His own and adopting us as His children. Because we were still infants, our parents and godparents spoke on our behalf when they introduced us into God's family, but as adults we have to ratify and act out, and personalize that religious decision. Through baptism we are freed from the debt of original sin which we inherited from our first parents, thus restoring and reconciling us with God who loves us.

Our baptism is an awe-inspiring phenomenon, as was Jesus'. Through baptism we become branches of Jesus who is the vine. Through baptism we achieve death to original sin and life in God. Through baptism we become members of the body of Christ, the People of God. Through baptism we are adopted as children of God, with the Spirit dwelling within us. Through baptism we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Christ.

In the Church precisely through the baptism we are called to holiness, each one in his own state of life and condition, and to exercise our apostolate. As members of the Church we are intimately connected through the sacramental character of baptism, which imprints sure and indelible spiritual sign on our souls. It is like Christ's seal of possession on the soul of the baptized, for Christ takes possession of our souls at the moment of baptism. This is the reason the Church desires that children should receive these gifts of God early.

To strengthen our mission through baptism, Jesus Christ presents Himself to us most perfectly and fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, for He truly speaks to us when the Scriptures are proclaimed in the assembly, and during Communion at Mass we truly

receive Him in His fullness - body, blood, soul and divinity. By this God-given means, the grace received during our baptism grows ever stronger, becoming for us, "a fountain within us, welling up to eternal life."

By our own baptism, heaven opened for us, the Holy Spirit descended upon us, and we were commissioned to do God's work. Thus, the mission to be the representatives of Christ in this world remains with us throughout our lifetime. We must be open to the Holy Spirit and remain faithful to our calling. Being faithful to our mission call is to be righteous before the Lord. If we honor and love God, He will remain in us and allow the fruits of His Spirit to manifest in our lives.

Prayer

Almighty God, thank you for this totally undeserved gift. We rejoice in the countless good things you have lavished upon us. Keep us in your love and help us to keep the promises made on our name at baptism. May you be pleased with us on account of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Directions:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of the evil of abortion by supporting March for Life and Life Issues Seminar.
2. Show no partiality in our relationship with one another.

God's Promise for the Week

*"Here is my servant whom I uphold ...he shall bring forth justice to the nations".
(Isaiah 42:1)*

Thursday, January 07, 2010

St. Raymond of Peñafort

(1175-1275)

Since Raymond lived into his hundredth year, he had a chance to do many things. As a member of the Spanish nobility, he had the resources and the education to get a good start in life.

By the time he was 20, he was teaching philosophy. In his early 30s he earned a doctorate in both canon and civil law. At 41 he became a Dominican. Pope Gregory IX called him to Rome to work for him and to be his confessor. One of the things the pope asked him to do was to gather together all the decrees of popes and councils that had been made in 80 years since a similar collection by Gratian. Raymond compiled five books called the *Decretals*. They were looked upon as one of the best organized collections of Church law until the 1917 codification of canon law.

Earlier, Raymond had written for confessors a book of cases. It was called *Summa de casibus poenitentiae*. More than just a list of sins and penances, it discussed pertinent doctrines and laws of the Church that pertained to the problem or case brought to the confessor.

At the age of 60, Raymond was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, the capital of Aragon. He didn't like the honor at all and ended up getting sick and resigning in two years.

He didn't get to enjoy his peace long, however, because when he was 63 he was elected by his fellow Dominicans to be the head of the whole Order, the successor of St. Dominic. Raymond worked hard, visited on foot all the Dominicans, reorganized their constitutions and managed to put through a provision that a master general be allowed to resign. When the new constitutions were accepted, Raymond, then 65, resigned.

He still had 35 years to oppose heresy and work for the conversion of the Moors in Spain. He convinced St. Thomas Aquinas to write his work *Against the Gentiles*.

In his 100th year the Lord let Raymond retire.

Comment: Raymond was a lawyer, a canonist. Legalism can suck the life out of genuine religion if it becomes too great a preoccupation with the letter of the law to the neglect of the spirit and purpose of the law. The law can become an end in itself, so that the value the law was intended to promote is overlooked. But we must guard against going to the opposite extreme and seeing law as useless or something to be lightly regarded. Laws ideally state those things that are for the best interests of everyone and make sure the rights of all are safeguarded. From Raymond, we can learn a respect for law as a means of serving the common good.

Quote: “He who hates the law is without wisdom, and is tossed about like a boat in a storm” (Sirach 33:2).

Patron Saint of: Attorneys/Lawyers

Source:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintofDay/default.aspx>



St. Raymond of Peñafort

Love Offering

Dec. 04, 2009 \$1,177.00
Dec. 11, 2009 \$ 672.00
Dec. 18, 2009 \$ 742.51

Thank you for your generosity!

January Calendar

January 08 Praise & Worship
15 Praise & Worship
22 Praise & Worship
29 Praise & Worship

Community Calendar

January 11, 2010
ME10 Grand Reunion, 12:00 noon
Our Lady of Good Counsel
8601 Wolftrap Rd.
Vienna, VA 22182
January 22, 2010
March for Life, 12:00 noon
National Mall & 7th Street, NW
Washington, D. C.
February 22-25, 2010
Medical Mission (with BLD Newark)
Mauban, Quezon, Philippines
March 5-7, 2010
YLSS# 4
Time & Venue - TBD

Reminder

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

Teaching Schedule

January 23, 2010
- **CMP 2 Part 2**
(for LSS8 & older)
- **Rediscovering Jesus/
Encounters with Jesus**
(for LSS9 & older)
- **Teachings of Jesus Christ**
Modules 3-5
(Covenanted members)

February 26, 2010
Post Encounter
(ME10/SE)

February 27, 2010
- **Christian Parenting**
(ME10/SPE)
- **Encounters with Jesus**
(LSS9 & older)
- **Spiritual Warfare**
(LSS7 & older)

February 28, 2010
- **Teachings of Jesus Christ**
Module 6 + Q&A
(Covenanted members)
- **CMP 2 Part 3**
(LSS8)

March 28, 2010
- **Shepherd Training**
(LSS7 & older)

Time and Venue – TBD

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

