

BLD WASHINGTON



# BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsel

### *Wedding at Cana*

**Theme:** The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who nurture and exercise their spiritual gifts.

**Word:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10;  
1Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1- 11

**Order:** “Do whatever He tells you.”(Jn 2: 5)

*(BLD Global Community reflection for January 2010)*

### **REFLECTION:**

The first public miracle of Jesus was performed during a wedding. It is interesting that this miracle is not about healing, not about forgiveness, not about raising of the dead, or about driving away of evil spirits. This is about joy, happiness, and blessings, reinforcing the importance that Jesus gave to the Sacrament of Marriage, turning water into wine, even when His “hour” had not come. This miracle is also a timely reminder for our community about the importance of the family, the small church, and our respect for life.

The Gospel of John relates that by means of this sign Jesus “manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him” (Jn 2:11). It is also interesting to note that in this wedding feast, Jesus performed the miracle through the participation of ordinary people like us: the obedient servers who followed His

words and filled the jar with water to the brim, the headwaiter who performs his duties well and tasted the water that turned into wine, and the wedding guests. Just as Jesus desired to use the water pots, the earthen vessels, He desires to work in ordinary people like us and through a community like BLD. Many of us may feel too small and unprepared, many may say that the Lord could never use someone like us. The enemy may cause us to focus more on our flaws and shortcomings, rather than on God’s unconditional love. However, Jesus has wonderful plans for faithful and obedient people. Like the water pots, by His grace, our Lord has chosen to use breakable and imperfect people to manifest His mighty power. When this happens, there is no doubt whatsoever that the source behind our miracle is God and not us. God wants to do a miracle through us.. He prefers the humble-earthen vessels, as St. Paul states in 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

The miracle of Cana reminds our community to release the power of God and the gifts that we received from the Holy Spirit : faith, healing, miraculous deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretations of tongues. Our Lord prefers to take the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. Let us therefore be empowered once more by the Holy Spirit in recommitting ourselves to the Great Commission of Jesus in Mark 16:15-18, “Go

into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them: they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

For this New Year, let us together remain to be fruitful as a community.. Let us continue to fill our earthen vessels with the Holy Spirit, up to the brim, and ask the Lord to turn our “water into wine”.

**Directions:**

1. Identify, unify and release our gifts, through the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory (Sienna), for the sake of the gospel.
2. Invigorate our life in the Spirit by using and nurturing our God-given gifts.

**God's Promise for the Week**  
***“You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God.” (Is 62:3)***



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*January 13*

**St. Hilary of Poitiers**

*(315?-368)*

This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy.

Hilary was born at Poitiers about the end of the 3rd century A.D. His parents were pagans of distinction. He received a good education, including what had even then become somewhat rare in the West, some knowledge of Greek. He studied, later on, the Old and New Testament writings, with the result that he abandoned his Neo-Platonism for Christianity, and with his wife and his daughter (traditionally named as Saint Abra) received the sacrament of baptism.

His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. St. Jerome said “The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia (in modern-day Turkey). Eventually he was called the “Athanasius of the West.” While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.

The death of Constantius in 361 ended the persecution of the orthodox Christians. Hilary died in 367 or 368 and was proclaimed a doctor of the Church in 1851.

**Prayer:** Saint Hilary of Poitiers, instead of being discouraged by your exile, you used your time to study and write. Help us to bring good out of suffering and isolation in our own lives and see adversity as an opportunity to learn about or share our faith. Amen



St. Hilary of Poitiers  
Patron against snake bites

Source: <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1259>

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**Love Offering**

Dec. 04, 2009 \$1,177.00  
Dec. 11, 2009 \$ 672.00  
Dec. 18, 2009 \$ 742.51  
Jan. 08, 2010 \$ 986.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**January Calendar**

Jan. 08 Praise & Worship  
15 Praise & Worship  
22 Praise & Worship  
29 Praise & Worship

**Reminder**

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

**Community Calendar**

- Jan. 22, 2010  
March for Life, 12:00 noon  
National Mall & 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D. C.
- Feb. 22-25, 2010  
Medical Mission (w/ BLD Newark)  
Mauban, Quezon, Philippines
- Mar. 5-7, 2010  
YLSS# 4  
Time & Venue - TBD

**Teaching Schedule**

- Jan. 22 - **Introduction to Commitment**  
(LSS#9 & older)  
OLV, Time - TBA
- Jan. 23 - **CMP 2 Part 2**  
(LSS#8 & older)  
- **Rediscovering Jesus/ Encounters with Jesus**  
(LSS#9 & older)  
- **Teachings of Jesus Christ**  
Modules 3-5  
(Covenanted members)
- Feb. 26 - **Post Encounter**  
(ME10/SE)
- Feb. 27 - **Christian Parenting**  
(ME10/SPE)  
- **Encounters with Jesus**  
(LSS9 & older)  
- **Spiritual Warfare**  
(LSS7 & older)
- Feb. 28 - **Teachings of Jesus Christ**  
Module 6 + Q&A  
(Covenanted members)  
- **CMP 2 Part 3**  
(LSS8)
- Mar. 28 - **Shepherd Training**  
(LSS7 & older)

Time and Venue – TBD

Please check our website [www.bldwashington.com](http://www.bldwashington.com) for 2010 Schedule of Events.