



**BLD WASHINGTON**  
**BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS**  
**COVENANT COMMUNITY**  
SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## COUNSEL

### HIS URGENT CALL

**Theme:** We are a blessing to others when we reform our lives and believe in the Good News.

**Word:** Jon 3:1-5,10; Ps 25:4-9; 1Cor 7:29-31;  
Mk 1:14-20

**Order:** *Repent and believe in the Gospel.*  
(Mk.1:15)

(BLD Global Community Reflection for Jan. 2012)

### Reflection:

The common thread that we see in Sunday's Readings is God calling to His people. *Come after me*, Jesus said to His first disciples. *Announce my message* to the city of Nineveh, the Lord instructed Jonah. And *time is running out* was the word that St. Paul had for the Corinthians.

St. Paul tells them further, *The world as we know it is passing away*. This urgency is echoed by Jonah who walked through the city saying, *Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed*. Then *the people believed God*, and they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth in repentance.

When we come to the awareness that it is God calling us, we realize in the intimacy of our hearts the need to do something, to act in a radical way like the Ninevites. We also see this happen with the early disciples. *Jesus called them, and they followed*

*Him*. Simon and his brother Andrew abandoned their nets and followed Him. James and his brother John left their father and followed Him.

What is our response to God's call? Having heard Jonah, *the people of Nineveh believed God*. The call is no less urgent to us whom the Lord brought to the BLD community. May He not see in us an *evil and faithless generation* who seeks a sign, as Mt 12 warns: *At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here*. This something greater is no other than Christ, our Savior and Master, who calls us. And He has the same urgent message that is **our Order for this week**: *Repent and believe in the Gospel*.

Mark 1:15 is known as the first theme in Christ's teaching when He began His public life. There are two distinct elements in it, and it profits us to reflect on them.

**Repentance** means much more than saying, "I'm sorry, God." It calls for a change of heart and conduct, a turning of one's life from rebellion to obedience towards God. To repent means the acceptance of the saving grace offered by God, manifested in Christ our Savior. Jesus said, *This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand*. Notice that repentance comes before belief, or faith. When we do not reject God's grace, but accept it, then we become predisposed and more open to **believe in the Gospel**, the good news of the kingdom of God.

The good news that comes from God is the fulfillment of His promise of the Messiah. Our

response to the Lord's urgent call entails being aware of this good news, of God being now at work in His Anointed One, Jesus Christ. We are called to believe that our salvation has indeed arrived, and we are rescued from sin and death; that through Jesus we are made adopted children of God.

The Lord does not expect everyone to put on sackcloth or to abandon their families and livelihood. We are to continue before God in the state in which we are called. St. Paul urges us to be less concerned with changing our states of life than with answering God's call where it finds us. We are to go about our ordinary activities but in a manner different from those who are so immersed in them and unaware that they are but fleeting and transitory.

It is our vocation, not our occupation, that should define us. What matters to the Lord is not what we do, but who we are. Like priests, we lay members of BLD have our own vocations as spouses and parents; but most of all, we can define ourselves by the way we live, as disciples of Christ. Pursuing our vocation means being faithful to the life that the Lord has assigned, even as we aspire to the whole new existence opened up by His call.

In this way, *we come to Jesus* and open ourselves to His promise, to *make us fishers of men*. It confirms the theme in our worship last week, that we are a blessing to others when we heed God's call to evangelize and testify.

### **Directions:**

1. Do not be reluctant.  
Follow the calling of the Lord.
2. Always include the Lord in your discernment and decision-making.

### **God's Promise for the Week**

***Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.*** (Mk 1:17)

## **The Essentials of Prayer**

### **Guided by the Holy Spirit and the Church, we learn to praise, thank and present our needs to God**

The memory that I cherish most of Blessed John Paul II was the privilege of seeing him absorbed in prayer in his private chapel prior to Mass. His prayer was deeply personal, yet was completely tied to the Church's life of prayer, rooted in the living Word of God and in the celebration of the Eucharist. Blessed John Paul II gave us a wonderful example of how the Holy Spirit forms the whole Church in prayer and in the ever-deeper contemplation of the mystery of Christ (\*Compendium, 548-549).

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church teaches and practices the essential forms of prayer, which are most perfectly found in the Eucharist: blessing and adoration; petition and intercession; thanksgiving and praise (\*550).

### **PRAYER AND TRADITION**

In the prayer of blessing, it is God who first blesses us and enables us to "bless" him (\*551). Because God fills us with his gifts, we can live the Beatitudes and say with the Psalmist: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless his Holy Name" (Ps 103). The prayer of adoration is a humble acknowledgement that we are creatures of God who owe our very existence and salvation to his goodness and generosity (\*Compendium, 552).

In the prayer of petition, we present our spiritual and material needs. Jesus taught us first to ask for the coming of his kingdom, which is realized in us when, through grace, we keep the commandments in the spirit of the Beatitudes. Seeking to live the heart of the Gospel, we ask God to forgive our sins and we pray not merely for the things we *want*, but for those things we truly *need* to grow in the likeness of Christ (\*553).

One of the most beautiful ways we can follow Christ is to pray, or intercede, for one another, just

as the risen and exalted Lord "pleads for us at the right hand of the Father." Our prayer of intercession should include not only our family and friends, but also our enemies, for Jesus taught: "Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you" (\*554; Mt 5:44).

At the heart of all Christian prayer is thanksgiving. On our own, we cannot thank God as we should, but in the Eucharist we join in Christ's prayer of thanksgiving to God the Father (\*555). Closely tied to thanksgiving is praise. Loving God above all things, we joyfully acknowledge God's greatness and glory (\*556). A spirit of praise and thanksgiving should permeate our whole lives.

As Christians, we never pray alone, but rather always as part of the Church's tradition. In fact, it is through this tradition and returning to the sources of Christian prayer that the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray (\*557). Our prayer is rooted in Scripture, the Word of God that leads us to "the surpassing knowledge" of Christ (Phil 3:8), and in the Church's liturgy, which communicates through sacramental signs the saving words and deeds of Christ. Lastly, the home should be a school of prayer, just as Jesus learned to pray in his home in Nazareth. Parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith (\*565).

\* *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

Source: [http://www.kofc.org/un/en/columbia/detail/printer\\_friendly/2011\\_06\\_chaplain\\_lori\\_en.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/columbia/detail/printer_friendly/2011_06_chaplain_lori_en.html)

**Love Offering**

December 30	\$ 907.88	
December 30	\$ 522.00	Sendong Typhoon Relief
January 06	\$ 893.00	
	\$ 22.00	Typhoon Sendong Relief Fund
January 13	\$1,049.00	

**Reminder:**

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

**January 2012 Calendar**

- January 06 - First Friday Mass/Holy Hour and Intercessory Prayer
- January 13 - Praise & Worship
- January 20 - Praise & Worship
- January 27 - Praise & Worship

**2012 Calendar of Events**

- Jan. 21 **Covenanted Members Meeting**  
McCarrick Center, Silver Spring, MD
- Jan. 23 **March for Life**  
Washington, D.C.
- Jan 30 –Feb. 2 - **Medical Mission**  
Palauan, Mindoro Occidental, Phils.
- Mar. 10 **Emergence Retreat**  
Holy Family, Silver Spring, MD
- Mar.10-11 **John 6 Crossing**  
Holy Family, Silver Spring, MD
- Mar. 17 **Nomination Day for BLD ECSL, DSL, DCS**
- April13-15 **YLSS#5**  
Holy Family, Silver Spring, MD
- May **DLC Meeting**  
McCarrick Center, Silver Spring, MD
- May **Fundraising**
- Jun. 01-03 **LSS12**  
Holy Family, Silver Spring, MD
- Jul. 06-08 **FE#6**  
Malvern Family Center, Pa.
- Jul.14 **Disciples Assembly**  
McCarrick Center, Silver Spring, MD
- Aug. 12 **Community Day/Picnic**  
Lake Fairfax, Va.
- Sept 7-9 **SPE#4**  
Holy Family, Silver Spring, MD
- Oct. **Washing of the Feet/ Agony in the Garden Retreat**
- Oct. 20 **AEMNC Mass w/Cardinal D. Wuerl**  
Basilica, Wash., DC
- Nov. 9-11 **ME13**  
Dulles, Hilton, Virginia
- Dec. 21 **Christmas Mass/Party**

(Missing dates, time &/or venue TBD)