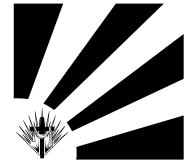




BLD PHOENIX
Valley of the SON
 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2008

Month of April

WORD: *Jesus Christ is God's Word to us.*

READINGS

- April 06** Acts 2:14, 22-23
 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11
 1 Pt 1:17-21
 Lk 24:13-35
- April 13** Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Ps 23:13a, 5-6
 1 Pt 2:20b-25
 Jn 10:1-10
- April 20** Acts 6:1-7
 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
- April 27** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
 Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20
 1Pt 3:15-18
 Jn 14:15-21

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Be believers and doers of the Word.*
2. *Always be guided by the word of God to maintain the right focus in life.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Transform your resentments into gratitude.*
2. *It is not enough to know Me; you need to believe and follow what I say.*

ORDER

*"...conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning."
 (1 Pt 1:14)*

Reflections for April

We read in the Gospel of John: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word as with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him and without Him nothing came to be... And the Word was made flesh and made His dwelling among us and we saw His glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."* (Jn 1: 1-3, 14).

In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read: *"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He spoke to us through a Son, whom He made heir of all things and through whom He created the universe, who is the refulgence of His glory, the every imprint of His being, and who sustains all things by His mighty Word."* (Heb 1:1-3)

Jesus Christ is God's creative Word, His life-giving Word. Jesus is the power of God who created the world and the reason God sustains the world. This month of April, we are encouraged to examine if we, who have tasted the Word of God (Heb 6:5), are still being renewed through this living and abiding Word of God. (1 Pet 1:23)

In the first week, the theme is: **God's Word keeps our hearts burning.** When we first encountered Jesus during our Encounters and Life in the Spirit seminar and after repenting of our sins, our hearts were on fire. We felt the love of God. We then resolved to mend our ways and follow Him. The Gospel reading on the encounter of the two disciples with Jesus on the way to Emmaus reminds us that we have to persevere in remaining with Jesus. We need to encounter and be with Him daily in the solitude of our hearts. That is possible when we pray, when we meditate on the Holy Scriptures, when we receive Him worthily in the Holy Eucharist, and when we witness to Jesus through our deeds.

In the second week the theme is: **God's Word is our gate to abundant life.** We have the abundant life that Jesus promises when we draw near to Him daily and confess: *"Know the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong, whose people we are, God's well tended flock."* (Ps 100:3) Pope Benedict XVI says: Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who leads us through the dark valleys; the Shepherd who Himself walked the valley of the shadow of death. The Shepherd who sets off to seek the lost sheep is the Eternal Word Himself, and the sheep that He lovingly carries home is humanity, whose mortal form He Himself took. The Incarnate Logos (Word) is the true "sheep-bearer" – the Shepherd who follows after us through the thorns and deserts of our life. Carried on His shoulders, we come home. He gave His life for us. He Himself is life. (Jesus of Nazareth, pp. 285-286).

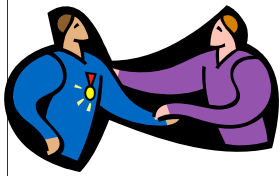
The third week's theme is: **God's Word delivers us out of darkness into His wonderful light.** The Word of God within us will allow us to see the light of God shining before us. When we are weak, the Holy Spirit will help us to be strong to withstand any temptation and trial; when we are afflicted, He will give us the joy to bear the momentary pain; when in dire need, we will be inspired to seek provisions from God knowing that

Continued on page 4...

BLD Phoenix

Encounters & Seminars 2008

- May 16-18: Life in the Spirit Seminar #6
 June 6-8: Marriage Encounter #8
 July 25-27: Youth Encounter #4
 Oct 17-19: Life in the Spirit Seminar #7



Life in the Spirit Seminar #6 “Salubungan”

April 4, 2008 after Healing Mass
at OLV

March YE 2 and YE 3 Reunion

On a bright, breezy spring Saturday in the Valley of the Sun, YE2 (Holler Boo!) and YE3 (Booyakosha!) had their joint reunion at Riverview Park in Mesa. After a last minute change of venue from Tempe Beach Park, the youth enjoyed an afternoon of food, fun, walking around the lake, playing on the playground equipment, sharing, bonding, and, of course, praising God!



This article will answer two central questions: 1. What was the main topic of the reunion? and, 2. Did Tita Joie really say the “S” word? The answers are: 1. Sexuality (the “S” word), and 2. Yes, Tita Joie actually said the “S” word! Tita Joie introduced the topic of Sexuality to the youth, and Jessamine Go, YE2, read from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. St. Paul reminded each of the youth that his or her body is a member of Christ! Not only this, St. Paul added, but each of our bodies is a temple of the Holy Spirit within, and each of us is to glorify God in our body.



After the introduction to the whole group, Tita Joie, Tita Ann, and Tita Mary Ann split off for sharing with the girls, and Tito Rey and Tito Chris split off for sharing with the boys. The common theme of the sharing was that outside influ-

ences—including the internet, television shows, movies, magazines, school, and non-BLD friends—often tempt us to do things contrary to our Catholic faith and teachings. We look for ways to overcome and defeat the outside temptations and influences, so that we maintain our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit within us.

That is it until next month. God is good—all the time! All the time—God is good!

Apr 27 - Filipino Sunday Mass at 5 pm
at Our Lady of the Valley
(Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

A Community of Encountered Couples and Families

Joyfully invites you to share the Fruits of the
Marriage Encounter Weekend (1st of 2 Series)

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is nearing and with this being the 8th encounter, there are still many unanswered questions about the ME. Every encounter, the Marriage Life Apostolate gives out a pamphlet together with the ME invitation letter and the application form. The following are just excerpts of the ME weekend process. More questions will be answered next issue.

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE "ENCOUNTER"

The Encounter presented by Bukas-Loob sa Diyos is open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. The Marriage Encounter is an invaluable experience of renewing our marriage relationship. It enriches the process of communication between husband and wife. It guarantees to make "good" marriages "better" and "not-so-good" marriages "good"! It is presented in a full weekend detached from the usual everyday distractions.

An "ecclesial team" trained and prepared for ministering the Encounter process conducts the weekend: a "Team Priest" and at least two "Team Couples" who manage together its instructional and experiential components. **Most, if not all, who have received the Encounter experience have fully rediscovered their marriage relationships, strengthened their conjugal and family life and become fully aware of the living presence of God in their marriage and family life.**

WHAT IS THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience for a couple, which offers them a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It is an opportunity to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. Also, it is a time to share their feelings, their hopes, fears, joys and frustrations. **Marriage Encounter is not a retreat, nor is it a marriage clinic or sensitivity course. It is not a time to look at the past, but rather to look to your future together.** The weekend is a positive, simple, common sense experience between husband and wife, that revitalizes marriage by helping couples to see what their relationship could and should be.

WHAT IS THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOR?

Marriage Encounter is for any couple who wants to enrich their marriage. The weekend is designed to expand and deepen the joys a couple share together whether they have been married for a short time or for many years. Marriage Encounter is also for priests and religious who want to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

DOES THE WEEKEND RESPECT THE COUPLE'S PRIVACY?

Yes! Marriage Encounter emphasizes communication between husband and wife through a weekend experience, which is free of the every day distractions and tensions. You concentrate on your spouse to such extent that you are hardly aware of the other couples who are in the Encounter. The presentations are given to the group as a whole. After each presentation, the husband and wife have time in the privacy of their room for their own personal sharing, using the communication technique they are learning that weekend. **There is no group discussion.**

June 6-8, 2008: Marriage Encounter #8

Applications are now available. Please see any BLD Member or check out our website at www.bldphoenix.com.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Life in the Spirit Seminar?

A Life-in-the-Spirit Seminar (LSS) consists of a series of talks designed to help people realize the power of the Holy Spirit that is available for every aspect of their lives.

Most of us have **heard about** the Holy Spirit and most of us have **learned about** the Holy Spirit, but many times that is as far as our experience has gone. The Holy Spirit is a real person, a part of the Blessed Trinity just like Jesus and the Father. We receive the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Through what is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit, a **personal conversion experience**, the power that **is** the Holy Spirit is **released** within us.

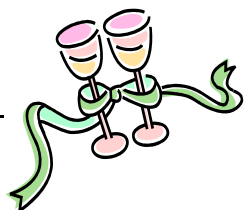
One illustration that helps some people understand this concept is through the image of a candle. It is designed with a wick that, when lit, creates or **releases** its light, so to speak; only at that time does the candle completely fulfill the purpose for which it was created. Until then it may be pleasant to look at, but it does not fulfill its purpose of emanating light. The candle's ability to be a source of light is always within it due to its design and the way it is made, but until something happens to "empower" that candle, until the wick is lit, it lies "dormant" it does not fully become what it was designed to be. So it is with all of us. We have been designed by God and empowered with the power of the Holy Spirit. But until that power is **released**, it lays dormant as does the light of the candle. A Life-in-the-Spirit Seminar is designed to help us yield to the action, empowerment and the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives just as He empowered the early church on the day of Pentecost.

The talks given during a LSS are designed to lead people through the basic message of salvation, to understand the need within themselves for the release of the Holy Spirit's power that already lies within them, and yield their lives to the Holy Spirit and a life of joy and peace using His many Gifts.

Continued on next column...

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Simon Lam (ME 2 Newark)
- 1 - Elmer Alata (ME 6)
- 3 - Gloria Javier (ME 6)
- 4 - Villa Sandstedt (ME 7)
- 8 - Leonor Beronia (ME 1)
- 9 - Joyce Clark (ME 1)
- 11 - Justice Tabora (ME 7)
- 12 - Rollie Tabora (ME 7)
- 12 - Mary Ann Conopio (ME 1)
- 12 - Marie Barba (LSS 3)
- 21 - Tony Fuentes (ME 7)
- 22 - Amor Obispo (ME 7)
- 24 - Felix Gines (ME 3)
- 24 - Edith David (ME 6)
- 25 - Chay Maravillas (ME 7)
- 28 - Denny Custodio (ME 4)



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Mike & Villa Sandstedt (ME 7)
- 18 - Manny & May Siongco (ME 4)
- 28 - John & Eva Ward (ME 4)
- 26 - Jack & Tess Marquez (ME 6)

What is the Life in the Spirit Seminar? Continued...

The format is simple, informal and presented with balanced, Catholic teaching based upon Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Church documents, personal testimony and prayer.

Many who have attended a Life-in-the-Spirit Seminar have experienced God and the Holy Spirit in a way they had never done before. It is not unusual for people to fall more deeply in love with the Eucharist, with Jesus Christ and the Trinity, with the Mass, and with the Bible, and many receive the [charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#) just as the Apostles did in the upper room on Pentecost. Those gifts are given to improve our lives and the lives of our family, church and community.

Most of us have a relationship with God; some of those relationships are closer than others are. It doesn't matter how close you are to Him or how far away He may seem, He is calling every one of us to deepen that relationship and He has nothing but LOVE waiting for us as we accept His call. **THERE'S ALWAYS MORE** of His love for everyone; all we have to do is yield ourselves more deeply to it and receive it.

If you are at least open to the possibility that you can deepen your personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, why not attend a Life-in-the-Spirit Seminar? It may change your life!! It has for millions and millions of Catholics, including priests, religious and laity, who are living a holier, Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered life today.

BLD Phoenix will have it's 6th Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS). Please see schedule details below:

May 16-18, 2008 - Life in the Spirit Seminar #6

May 16, 2008 Friday at 0730 PM

Invocation Mass at Our Lady of the Valley
3220 W Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85053

May 17 & 18, 2008 Saturday & Sunday

LSS Proper at St. Stephens Church
2310 N 56th St., Phoenix, AZ



Ignatian Silent Retreat

There will be an **Ignatian Silent Retreat** with Fr. Manny Flores who is a professor at Loyola School of Theology in Ateneo de Manila University and the Director for Theologians at Arrupe International Residence, Jesuits Seminary. Please note schedule below:

April 11-Our Lady of the Valley Church (Orientation)

April 12 & 13-Franciscan Renewal Center

The Retreat's theme is **Leading, Loving, Living, Dying in Community**. Please register with BLD Secretariat through e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com or text at 480-208-9036/602-628-5116. The 2-day registration fee is \$50 and is inclusive of lunch and snacks. Participants are limited to 50 only so please send in your registration to save you a spot! Please grab a flyer found at the Registration Area for more details.





Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry:

- ◆ Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update Intercessory ministry heads for answered prayers. You may please make/update prayer requests through a link in the website or e-mail ministry heads: Denny & Nina Custodio at dennyc1220@cox.net.

IDLC:

- ◆ To all DCS and Ministry Heads (and all those involved in handling minors) please take the Safety Environment Training for Ministries offered by local parishes. Please check the Diocese website for training Schedule <http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>
- ◆ IDLC Meeting April 5 from 2pm-4pm at OLV


Secretariat

- ◆ Please wear your community I.D. If you do not have one contact Evan & Joie Pangilinan directly or e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com.

Word:

- ◆ Share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer with the community thru an article (350 words max). E-mail to eunex@aol.com.

BLD Phoenix Annual Golf Tournament

 On January 20, BLD Phoenix opened the year by hosting its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at the Bougainvillea Golf Club in Laveen, Arizona. As with the previous two years, the Fil-Am Golfers of AZ, the Philippine Golf Club members (PGC) and other invited golfers grazed this year's event. This year's invitational was made extra special for BLD Phoenix as golfing members of other BLD districts like Newark and Trenton came to play a great round of golf. This event raised \$4,852.65. Proceeds will financially assist the community's forthcoming activities. To all the hole sponsors, the players, and to our very own BLD Phoenix Service Ministry, our heartfelt thanks for your generosity. God bless.

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of January 2008

<i>Receipts</i>	\$2, 612.93
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$1,087.90
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$1,525.03

Cash flow as of February 2008

<i>Receipts</i>	\$2,107.70
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 453.89
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$1,653.81

Cash flow as of March 2008

<i>Receipts</i>	\$1,770.95
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$1,448.00
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$ 322.95

See Treasury Logbook for details-available at Registration Area or see Treasury Ministry Heads Pedro & Cita Rivera

Thank you for your generosity!

Strut to the rhythm of the 80's...ME #7 invites you to rock down to the...



80's Electric Avenue

An 80's themed dinner-dance on Saturday.

April 26, 2008 from 6pm-12mn at the **Philippine-Asian (Phil-Asian) Seafood Banquet Hall** located at 2710 W. Bell Road Ste. 1150 Phoenix AZ 85053 NW corner of I-17 & Bell Rd. near Super Saver Cinema within the Bell Canyon Pavilions
Tickets are available at \$35 for adults and \$20 for children 12 years and below.

You may please purchase tickets from any ME 7 class member or from your class Shepherds.

Come in your eightiest 80's attire!!!

Reflections continued from page 1...

He will answer our fervent prayers. He will give us the grace to love the unlovable; to forgive those who have wronged us and to share our resources with the least of our brethren; to do the deeds of Christ.

In the fourth week the theme is: **God's Word sanctifies our hearts and leads us to holiness.** As we have turned away from our sinful past, we enthrone God's Word, Jesus, in our hearts. When Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit, He gives us a double gift: the gift of truth of conscience and the gift of certainty of redemption. As we follow the commands of Jesus, we then have a conscience that is alive; where the Holy Spirit is in our most secret core and sanctuary; where we can hear the voice of God, who will command us to do good and forbid evil; who will convince us about sin. (Dominum Et Vivicantem by Pope John Paul II p. 55; 78) The Holy Spirit will allow us to repent of any wrongdoing and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If we are serious in pursuing our spiritual life and our salvation, we should make every effort to avoid sin so that the Holy Spirit can reside in our hearts. With the Holy Spirit in our hearts, He will make us holy and acceptable to God.

God's Word, Jesus Christ, is the goal of human history, the focal point of the longings and civilization, the center of the human race, the joy of every heart and the answer to all its longings (Gaudium et Spes p.68). If we continue to keep Jesus in our hearts by avoiding sin and obeying His commandments He will keep our hearts burning with love for God and for one another. He will lead us to the abundant life and His wonderful light. Jesus will make us holy as our Father in heaven is holy; truly deserving of the eternal life that He promises us. (Mt 25: 46b; John 12:25)

To all BLD LSS graduates: Please approach LSA Glad-dine & Gerry Bautista or LSS #6 Seminar Coordinators Pedro & Cita Rivera and sign up if serving for the coming LSS #6 on May 16-18. Thank you and God bless.

www.BLDPhoenix.com