



Month of April

WORD: God greatly exalted Jesus in his humility and obedience.

READINGS

- April 05 Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 Phi 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15:47
April 12 Acts 10:34a,37-43 Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Col 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9
April 19 Act 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 1Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31
April 26 Acts 3:13-15,17-19 Ps 4:2,4,7-9 1Jn 2:1-5 Lk 24:35-48

An Easter Prayer

God our Father, creator of all, today is the day of Easter joy. This is the morning on which the Lord appeared to men who had begun to lose their hope and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die, and then he would rise and ascend into his Father's glorious presence. May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread, and follow him in his risen life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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MONTHLY COUNSELS

Palm Sunday: Forbearance/Endurance

Theme: God exalts us when we patiently bear our cross daily.
Promise: 'The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.' (Is 50:7)
Reflection: Christ's entrance into Jerusalem is what the whole church commemorates. Christ enters Jerusalem in triumph amidst the waving of olive branches and the tumult of praise. Yet the obvious is missed. Our king rides in on an ass, a humble gesture that anticipates his humiliation on the cross. Even as he comes to embrace his role as Messiah, he empties himself of pomp and glory. Not to him empty human praise and enthusiasm without commitment, but to him alone, through his forbearance and obedience, belongs the Father's exaltation. Christ submits himself to human caprice and ridicule as a suffering servant. His is the ultimate paradox of divine condescension: the Son of God's endurance under human mockery and derision. What mightier act of humility, forbearance and obedience is there than to die on the cross for the salvation of sinners? PRAYER: Father, you bear our insolence and pride, even if sometimes we again scoff at your son when our behavior still echoes the mockery in the inscription of our charge against him on the cross, 'The King of the Jews.' Mercy, Father, forgive us. Have mercy on us.

Order: 'Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.' (Mk 14:38)
Direction: Engage life and its crosses. Help someone carry his day's burden with your cheerfulness and encouragement. Be a friend to everyone without regard to title, power and position. Obey the promptings of your heart when you make decisions, for in your heart God's commandments have been inscribed. Invite a friend when you go to mass. Bring him back home to Jesus.

Easter Sunday: Prayer Life

Theme: God exalts us when we overcome our sinful ways by His grace.
Promise: '...that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.' (Acts 10:43)
Reflection: Were you there when they crucified our Lord? Were you there when he rose from the dead? Peter, Mary Magdalene and the other apostles were there. They are the original witnesses. In scripture, they witness to Christ's preaching, healing and good works, that he was crucified, that he died and was buried and on the third day he rose from the dead. Neither Christ's death nor resurrection is a repeatable event, but on the basis of apostolic testimony, we believe. Christ died that we may live. Our life and our own resurrection can only come from our faith in Jesus and our continuing commitment to his ideals: Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. Clean out the old yeast. Celebrate... not with...malice and wickedness...but with sincerity and truth. PRAYER: Jesus, your life, we must imitate. Thank you for giving us hope as we look forward to our own resurrection.

Order: 'Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.' (Col 3:2)
Direction: Every day when we make choices, seek the things of heaven, the things that reconcile us to Jesus. Set our minds on what lifts our souls not what advances our bodily comforts and fortunes. Clean out our lack of piety and prayer. Set a time for morning and evening prayer. Pray with your spouse and family. Invite someone with you when you next make an adoration hour. Continued on page 2...

Counsels continued from page 1...

Second Sunday of Easter: Faith (Divine Mercy Sunday)

**Theme:** God exalts us when we believe and accept the Risen Christ as our Lord and Savior.

**Promise:** "...believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." (Jn 20:31)

**Reflection:** We live in an age of doubt and despair, loss of faith and hope, altered reason and dignity. The work of the Risen Christ and ours as his faithful believers has not ceased. We must continue to love. *For the love of Christ is this, that we must keep his commandments.* (1 Jn 5:3a) We must continue to love. With one heart and one mind, we share our bounty and our want, which is the best expression of that love. We celebrate our common possession: our faith in and our love of the Risen Christ. We must continue to believe and love if we hope to make a living reality what Jesus said as a greeting to his disciples in the Upper Room, "Peace be with you." (Jn 20:19b). In the context of Christ's death and resurrection, there can only be peace with the total conquest of evil and darkness. It can only come from love and faith. **PRAYER:** Jesus, we desire to die to sin and to live in your name. We believe in the power of your death. We trust in the might of your resurrection. In faith, we accept you as our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**Order:** "Do not be unbelieving but believe." (Jn 20:27b)

**Direction:** Work with our brothers and sisters with one heart and one mind as keepers of one another's welfare and guardians of one another's heritage. Share whatever you have, your talents and your failures, your joys and your tears. Our community is for sharing and helping one another, because Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and he is our brother. That is the summary of our faith.

Third Sunday of Easter: Repentance

**Theme:** God exalts us when we preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**Promise:** "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." (Acts 3:19)

**Reflection:** As Moses led his people into the Promised Land so Jesus, the second Moses, leads us into the New Canaan. Jesus more than leads us. He guarantees our entry into his kingdom by paying the ultimate price, his life, as the expiation for our sins. While he knows we belong to heaven, we are not there yet, and through his suffering and death, he inspires us to make constant moral effort to keep his commandments, to be faithful and to persevere in his company, and if we fail, to seek his mercy, repent, be forgiven, and be reconciled to his love. "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Lk 24:46-47) **PRAYER:** Jesus, O, Suffering Servant, I am heartily sorry for all my sins. Help me to make amends and to turn my life around. Let me spare you any more suffering because of my sins. Give me room in your sacred heart, to share in your suffering for other sinners who are still in great need of your intercession. Amen.

**Order:** "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." Acts 3:19

Third Sunday of Easter continued...

**Direction:** Watch an hour with Christ. This is one way to develop a sense of his constant presence that enables us to keep his commandments. Pray the rosary. The Beloved Mother's intercession always keeps fresh our desire for repentance to be worthy of her son's mercy and compassion.

**CONSCIENCE PROTECTION**

April 9 was the deadline to get the people's voices heard, especially the voices of those in the Healthcare Profession. Recently, a proposal to **rescind** (void) an important federal regulation issued in December was submitted. The regulation implements and enforces three federal laws protecting the **conscience rights** of health care providers, especially those at risk of being discriminated against because of their moral or religious objection to abortion. As a community, together in one mind and one heart, let us fervently pray for these voices to be heard. More so, let us pray even harder for the unheard voice of the unborn.

<http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection/>

**THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION**  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY OBSERVED APRIL 19



From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading through out the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to ever one — especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. The message of mercy is that God loves us - all of us - no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

**A** — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B** — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C** — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive. <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/>

## FACTS OF OUR FAITH

For many centuries, Christian pilgrims have longed to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and on Passion Sunday the eyes of the world are on the Via Dolorosa, the "Road of Sorrows," in Jerusalem. As soon as it became safe for Christians to worship in public in the fourth century, a way was marked out. It was changed a few times over the years, and today's usual route was sketched by the Franciscans six hundred years ago, although Anglicans and Byzantines have their own unique detours. Friday is the most favored day, although it is crowded then. Almost everyone begins at the Lion's Gate in the Muslim Quarter, and ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It's less than a quarter mile, but it threads its way through crowded markets with souvenir shops and fast-food snacks. There are, just as in your parish church, fourteen stations along the way. The exact spots are not known, but what matters is the pilgrim's unique ability to see even an ordinary road in a teeming city as something more than meets the eye. Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co

### April Teaching Schedule

Teaching (Simultaneous):

1. Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Charismata, Pneumatika, Diakonia

(for All Encounter and LSS Graduates (Adults))

2. Shepherd's Training/Workshop (for LSS Shepherds)

When: April 26, 2009 at 12noon to 4PM,

Where: VHC Offices 1212 N Spencer St., Mesa 85203

### An Easter Message

from Formation Apostolate

Today, even as our own chaotic world is forced to some degree of silence in varying measures of reverence to the Lord who is nailed to a tree, let us ourselves in that snatch of silence pray and pray hard. Sometimes, of the stations of the cross, we have a longer reflection on the eight, when Jesus says to the women of Jerusalem, "Weep not for me but weep for yourselves and your children." He knows deeply of what he speaks. Let us weep and pray for ourselves and our children, and the world. AND ALWAYS, Easter morn comes and our lives have another chance at it. Happy Easter, everyone.

As generous with chances for us, as the Risen Christ is, so too our abundant choices. We do pray the Lord that he helps us choose him over all other choices there are.



Please share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer thru an article (350 words max).

Please E-mail to [wordministry@bldphoenix.com](mailto:wordministry@bldphoenix.com).

*"We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem..."*

Acts 10:39

## Life in the Spirit Seminar #8 (LSS 8)

June 19, 2009 (Friday) Invocation Mass

June 20-21 (Sat & Sun) LSS Day 1 & Day 2

Queen of Peace Parish, Mesa, AZ

Spiritual Director: Msgr. Schetelick

Open to all especially to the recent graduates of BLD Phoenix Marriage Encounter #9 and Solo Parents Encounter #3

### Orientation for All LSS Participants

April 17, 2009 - after Praise & Worship at OLV

### "Salubungan" for LSS 8

May 1, 2009 - after Healing Mass at OLV

### What is the Life in the Spirit Seminar?

The Life in the Spirit Seminar is a process which was designed as an evangelistic tool, a formation experience, and an introduction to a life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It was developed and has evolved over the course of some thirty plus years of evangelistic ministry, within Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It was designed as a tool to reach a wide range of people and has been used primarily to bring church members to a fuller experience of life in the Spirit and to redefine the baptismal life that we are given in Christ Jesus, but often need to ratify as adult believers.

The seminar helps participants realize the fire, the breath of the sanctifying and charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit. The sanctifying gifts: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety and fear of the Lord, complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful submissive in readily obeying divine inspirations. The Charismatic gifts, whether ordinary or extraordinary: healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues and interpretation, etc, are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity which builds up the Church. The seminar also helps realize the fruits of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (peace, love, joy, etc.).

Although we receive the life of the Spirit through the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, many of us need to fan this spark of life into flames to lead one to experience an **awakening** of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. As LSS primarily serves to establish and/or **deepen** a person's relationship with Jesus Christ, it also invites us to gather and prepare for a very personal "Pentecost", a new release or revitalization of the Spirit's Presence. It offers the opportunity to live our baptismal promises in the fullness of the Spirit. The seminar is most effective when approached with a personal posture of faith, expectancy and openness. (CCRM)

After attending a *Life In The Spirit Seminar* many have experienced GOD in or more of the following ways:

- γ Scripture becomes alive, with words seemingly jumping out while reading or studying them
- γ A strong desire for more and deeper prayer; desire to serve
- γ The LORD's peace and joy reigning in ways not previously experienced.

Life in the Spirit Seminars facilitated by BLD require all participants to undergo "shepherding". Shepherds help the participants prepare for the seminar. The participants and their discerned shepherds are introduced to each other at least six weeks before the scheduled LSS ("Salubungan").

## The Camp Pine Rock Harvest

In the heart of that splendid forest where Camp Pinerock is nestled in Prescott, 21 couples responded to God's invitation to take a pause, to examine their lives and to virtually ask of God, "What hidden corners in my marriage have I not let God in?" This is our BLD harvest, this group of married couples that gathered on March 27, Friday thru March 29, Sunday which we now call Marriage Encounter #9 or simply "ME#9" for fond reference. It needs no exhortation, that no one in BLD Phoenix is a mere number. Everyone is a special child of God.

With open arms we welcome into our growing family the ME#9 graduates: Ray and Carol Ansay, Mario and Tess Binarao, Rock and Rosie Calvo, Ross and Noei Carballo, Andrew and Hiyasmin Csonotos, Tony and Cecille Dimaano, Manny and Ruby Dizon, Roy and Julie Ann Fernandez, Jerome and Sharon Fernando, James and Lourdes Ferraro, Jong and Malie Gabriel, Gary and Macon Kidder, Carmelo and Donna Larracas, Eric and Cecille Maglalang, John and Christine Minch, Rey & Ann Palacio, Peter and Eve Parian, Nelson and Malou Reyes, Sonny and Elena Rodriguez, Jojo and Jackie Ronsayro, Dante and Maribel Siongco.

In every BLD endeavor, as in this ME with such tremendous attendance, one might wonder how a retreat of such magnitude could go so smoothly with but minor glitches. How does the conference with the priests and speakers, with all the singing and dancing, the praying and sharing and all the in between activities, in that tumult, how does the cleansing and healing of souls ever happen? The best known open secret is God's mercy. God alone takes credit, but still, we must give thanks to all who have worked with much love for that successful weekend: Fathers Tito Ignacio and Reggie Carreon, spiritual directors; Alex and Lina Alba (the BLD Phoenix newest home-grown sharer for ME and Class Shepherd of ME#9) and Jess and Ning Laforteza, couple sharers; Denny and Nina Custodio, incoming co-class shepherds; Rey & Ann Conopio, admin couple, with the Sponsoring Class ME# 8 and the Praise Ministry.

Always last but not the least to be mentioned among the generous hearted workers are the volunteer auxiliaries, who all go by their esteemed title, "auxies." They make things happen with the luggage, the name tags, the wake up calls, the ceaseless transitions from hour to hour, the tables and chairs, the lights and props, but most of all, on bended knees, before the Blessed Sacrament, they pray until the last word in the day's conference is said, so there is no oppression or confusion ever anywhere in the premises. If the auxies are not in the Vigil Room which for ever is the powerhouse that move's God's love to allow every great accomplishment, the almost omnipresent auxies come and go, help here and there, the first to come in the scene and the last to go, in humble imitation of Christ.



BIRTHDAYS	
1 - Simon Lam	12 - Rollie Tabora
1 - Elmer Alata	21 - Tony Fuentes
3 - Glo Javier	22 - Amor Obispo
4 - Tess Martinez	24 - Felix Gines
4 - Villa Sandstedt	24 - Edith David
8 - Leonor Beronia	24 - Donna Larracas
9 - Joyce Clark	25 - Chay Maravillas
11 - Justice Tabora	28 - Denny Custodio
12 - Mary Ann Conopio	28 - Dante Siongco
12 - Marie Barba	29 - Ruby Dizon
ANNIVERSARIES	
5 - Mike & Villa Sandstedt	19 - Vic & Pam Zapanta
7 - Tony & Cecille Dimaano	26 - Jack & Tess Marquez
7 - Art & Marissa Crisostomo	28 - John & Eva Ward
18 - Manny & May Siongco	28 - Eric & Cecille Maglalang

**THE LORD'S PROVISIONS**  
 Cash flow as of March 2009  
*Receipts*                 \$3,826.40  
*Disbursements*         \$ 672.35  
*Surplus (Deficits)*     \$3,154.05

For more details, see Treasury Ministry Heads, Pedro & Cita Rivera  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

**ME #9 Grand Reunion**  
**When: April 25, 2009 at 10 AM** for all ME 9 Class only  
 (All BLD members are invited to come at 5 PM)  
**Where: Alba Residence**  
 13611 N. 80<sup>th</sup> Place Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
 (101 to Scottsdale Exit on Cactus Rd, Go East to Hayden  
 Go North (Right) on Hayden, Pass Sweetwater (stop light)  
 Right on Voltaire Ave. then Quick left on 80th Place  
 13611 N. 80th Place is at the corner of 80th and Sharon Dr.)  
 Please confirm your attendance with Alex & Lina Alba, ME9 Class  
 shepherds at 480-596-0579 or 480-363-1338  
 Please bring your Bibles, favorite dish & prepare to dance for the Lord.