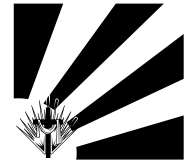




BLD PHOENIX

# VALLEY OF THE SON



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 4

Year C

April 2010

## Month of April

**WORD:** *Believers in the Risen Christ seek heavenly things.*

### READINGS:

- April 4** 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 11** Acts 5:12-16  
Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24  
Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19  
Jn 20:19-31
- April 18** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41  
Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13  
Rev 5:11-14  
Jn 21:1-19
- April 25** Acts 13:14, 43-52  
Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5  
Rev 7:9, 14b-17  
Jn 10:27-30

### 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.

LSS 9 SALUBUNGAN - May 7, 2010  
JOHN 6 CROSSING - May 8 & 9, 2010

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Mike & Villa Sandstedt  
7 - Art & Marissa Crisostomo  
18 - Manny & May Siongco  
19 - Vic & Pam Zapanta  
23 - Mark & Cecile Lockey  
26 - Jack & Tess Marquez  
28 - John & Eva Ward    28 - Eric & Cecille Maglalang

### THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of March 2010  
*Receipts*                    \$3,209.20  
*Disbursements*        \$ 471.26  
*Surplus (Deficits)*    \$2,737.94

Website: [www.BLDPhoenix.com](http://www.BLDPhoenix.com)  
Group E-mail: [BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com](mailto:BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com)

## MONTHLY COUNSELS

### April 4: Easter Sunday (Witnessing)

**Theme:** We seek heavenly things when we bear witness to the life of Christ.  
**Promise:** *"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."* (Ps 119:17)  
**Reflection:** Finding the large stone removed from the tomb, Mary of Magdala ran to Peter and John and told them, **"They have taken the Lord from the tomb."** Both Peter and John ran to the tomb. John arrived at the tomb first and looked but did not enter. Peter arrived after John and entered the tomb first. John entered after Peter, and he **saw and believed.** Like Mary, Peter and John we have different capacities for insights and responses to faith. As disciples we arrive at firm faith at different paces. What matters is the supremacy of faith not the primacy of who got it first. He who seeks finds, each at his own time. Those who love seek first chance to show that love with sincerity and respect as did these three disciples. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and as believers, so must we seek God early and earnestly and deny ourselves comfort or rest in our quest for faith. If we seek the Christ sincerely we too shall find many large stones mysteriously rolled away for us. Our journey of faith is illumined with God's grace that gives each of us special insights. God's love for us is beyond human bounds of perception. We each recognize the risen and triumphant Christ at first vaguely and later more clearly. Seeing the empty tomb, we experience Mary Magdalene's initial response, and repeat what she said, **"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."** Even when we see the burial cloths neatly folded that evidences he was not taken violently away, we may yet implore, "Tell us where he is." And only when we fully understand do we conclude in our enlightened faith, "The Lord is risen."

**Prayer:** Jesus, help our faith and understanding that you have saved us. Let us witness to others our joy over your everlasting concern for our well being.

**Order:** **"Seek what is above."** (Col 3: 1)

**Direction:** Bear witness to Christ by serving and loving all especially the sick, the poor and the needy. Always be a caring friend. Respect other people's insights and the pace of their responses to ideas and events.

### April 11: Second Sunday of Easter (Faith)

**Theme:** We seek heavenly things when we firmly believe in God.

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

**Reflection:** Faith is not only an internal happening. Faith must translate into concrete actions and decisions in our daily living. We read in the Gospel, **"These are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is Christ."** Our faith must consist of touching and affirming other people's lives, helping them in their difficulties and uncertainties, comforting them in their woes, joining them in their joys, sharing with them stories of faith that shore up their spiritual trust and confidence so that the doubting Thomas in every one of us out there may come to believe. **"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."** In some ways, do we not put conditions on our faith? Do we not ground our faith only on the measure of answered prayers or fulfilled petitions? Is our belief a matter of physical proofs and conditions met that have to be seen and touched?  
*Continued next page...*

**Counsels continued from page 1...**

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me in my unbelief. I ought not to have conditions for believing other than that I am alive and you daily sustain me. Help me trust in your love.

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

**Direction:** Proclaim the good news through our encounter with everyone in our community regardless of what ministry or mission we belong to. Daily live the compassion of Jesus.

**April 18: Third Sunday (Caring)**

**Theme:** We seek heavenly things when we truly care for others.

**Promise:** *“Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.”* (Jn 21: 6)

**Reflection:** For many of us who know little of fishermen, fish and fishing, today’s Gospel may describe some universal observations. Peter and his crew of life long fishermen fished all night, **but that night they caught nothing**, but with the dawn, the Risen Christ suggests a simple instruction, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something,” and immediately, they caught a multitude of fish. When like Peter and his crew of fishermen we fish on our own, that is, “fish at night,” as a metaphor of a failed undertaking, we make no catch. But when we fish in response to God’s word, that is, “fish in daylight,” as a metaphor for a new beginning under God’s guidance, we make an abundant catch. God remains the source and origin of all things not nature’s incidental bounty or our own innate abilities as though even these did not come from the Lord. The ultimate Fisherman is Christ. The supreme Missionary is Christ. We are only the tools and instruments of his work. But God probes our love with a question, “Do you love me?” It is a simple question. He does not ask, “What have you done for me?” Neither does he ask, “Have you ever suffered for me?” “Have you ever wept for me?” He asks none of these proofs of love. He merely asks the simple question, “Do you love me?” It is the simple question that vexes conscience with the burden of uncertainties, only because I do not trust Jesus enough and I trust myself less. If I do claim that I love him, I must be certain of it. It is not God who asks, but it is my inner voice that asks these questions, “How sincerely do I love you, Lord, and others?” “How thoroughly do I serve?” “How attentively do I really care for you, Lord, or for any one?” “Have I as much love as I claim I do?” O God of love, O God of grace, in your mercy, grant me the sincerity and honesty to really love you as I ought.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help me begin my life again. Help me love you not out of routine or out of habit but let me love you with freshness and the new outlook of every moment of my life. Amen.

**Order:** “Feed my lamb...tend my sheep...feed my sheep.” (Jn 21: 15, 16, 17)

**Direction:** Regard with care and love each person you meet inside or outside of the community. Nourish that love through sincere friendship and helpfulness.

**April 25: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Self-giving)**

**Theme:** We seek heavenly things when we become instruments of salvation.

**Promise:** *“For the lamb...will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* (Rv 7:17)

**Happy Easter!**

**Reflection:** “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” It is not enough that we hear God’s voice. We must respond to it. We must listen with understanding. It is not enough that we follow Christ. We must understand why we are following him. It is God who takes supremacy over all our priorities. It is not who we are but whose we are that matters. God’s voice must be our guide. God knows us despite our many faults and infirmities, despite the disguises of our many pretensions and profanations that shield us from him. God loves us and looks at us with an eye of favor and delight despite the slowness of our spiritual growth and maturity. The sooner we shed our masks and lift our chins heavenward to meet God’s gaze, the sooner we surrender ourselves to his guidance. Self is the best of gifts.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me recognize your voice in the chaos of many voices that compete for my attention. Let me respond with love and certainty only to your voice. I give you myself, entirely and sincerely. Amen.

**Order:** “Be an instrument of salvation.” (Acts 13: 47)

**Direction:** Shepherd your flock with diligence. Regularly attend Praise and Worship and every opportunity for teaching and service. # RSC.

**April Teaching Schedule**

Teaching Topic: Corporate Worship

For: Post-LSS and Encountered Adults

When: **April 25, 2010** at 1 to 4PM

Where: Victory Home Care Offices

1212 N Spencer St., Mesa 85203

Please bring you Bible, Notebook and Pen!

*“And He gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God.”* (Eph 4:11-14)

**April 11 - Feast of Divine Mercy**

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 would 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, repent of our sins and ask 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 receive from his bounty.

**BIRTHDAYS**

1-Simon Lam

2-Fe Sabado

3-Glo Javier

4-Villa Sandstedt

9-Joyce Clark

11-Justice Tabora

12-Rollie Tabora

12 - Ann Conopio

24 - Edith David

24 - Donna

Larracas

21 - Tony Fuentes

22 - Amor Obispo

25 - Chay Maravillas

28 - Denny Custodio

**28-Dante Siongo**

29-Ruby Dizon