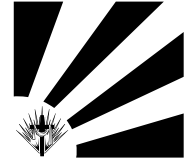




BLD PHOENIX
Valley of the SON
 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Issue 8

August 2008

Month of August

WORD: *When we are faithful to our covenant with Jesus, we participate in His miracles.*

READINGS

- Aug 03** Is 55:1-3
 Ps 145:8-9, 15-18
 Rom 8:35, 37-39
 Mt 14:13-21
- Aug 10** 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a
 Ps 85:9-14
 Rom 9:1-5
 Mt 14:22-23
- Aug 17** Is 56:6-7
 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
 Rom 11:13-15, 29-32
 Mt 15:21-28
- Aug 24** Is 22:19-23
 Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8
 Rom 11:33-36
 Mt 16:13-20
- Aug 31** Jer 20:7-9
 Ps 63:2-6, 8-9
 Rom 12:1-2
 Mt 16:21-27

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Persevere in your faith and trust in the Lord's perfect plan in your life.*
2. *When burdened with trials and difficulties turn to our Lord and trust in His love for us. Give our time, talent and treasure to Jesus and He can multiply whatever we give Him.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Turn to Me and listen to My Word, and I will open My hand and give you everlasting blessings.*
2. *Your willingness to give a part of yourself brings about miracles not only in your life But in the lives of others as well.*

ORDER (BLD GLOBAL):

"Come to me heedfully; listen, that you may have life." (Isa 55: 3b)

REFLECTION FOR AUGUST

The Good News: In today's gospel Jesus has the crowds sit down on the grass, as at mealtime, for he intends it to be such. Then, he has his disciples distribute the bread he has broken and the fish for them to eat. It is he himself, who feeds them, though it was through the apostles that he fed them. And they are fully satisfied. The whole scene immediately brings to mind the Eucharistic meal in which Christ, surrounded by the same apostles, would feed them with the Living Bread that is himself. Likewise, Christ feeds us with his own Body and Blood, that is, he gives himself totally to each one who comes to him hungering for the food of the strong. In this Eucharist, he is no longer content to give mere bread as he did the multitudes in the wilderness, but gives himself, to each one in particular. It is through his ministers that he gives himself to us. This is clearly brought out when ministers of the Eucharist briefly hold out the sacred host before each communicant, saying: "The Body of Christ". The minister thus represents Christ, who gives himself individually to each communicant. Hence, it is not the communicant who feeds himself by taking the Sacred Host, but the minister, representing Christ, who feeds him. How great is the love of Christ for each of us! He not only lived and died for us, he so loves us so much, he continues to give himself totally to each one of us who comes to him. Could greater love than this be bestowed upon his brother s and sisters in the flesh?

Never must we take this gift for granted. We can avoid that mistake and actually grow in our appreciation, by allowing many aspects of life to remind us of the Eucharist, as does today's Gospel. When we wake up hungry and thirsty, we should not think only about our next meal, but also about our next Eucharist. When we are enjoying dinner with family or friends, we should allow the festivities to turn our minds to the celebrations of the Eucharist. When we buy a loaf of bread or a bottle of wine, we should remember how Jesus takes the elements of bread and wine and transforms them during the Mass into his body and blood. When we read and are concerned with balanced diet, we should realize that Jesus gives us the perfect nourishment for our spiritual lives in the Holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist is invaluable to us. In other words, its worth cannot be measured. We should then heed the invitation of the Prophet Isaiah, *"Come to me heedfully; listen, that you may have life." (Isaiah 55:3b)*

Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) # 7 Schedule

- Sept 12 (Friday) - Invocation Mass 8 PM at Our Lady of the Valley
 Sept 13 (Saturday) - Day 1 LSS Proper St. Stephen's Retreat Center
 Sept 14 (Sunday) - Say 2 LSS Proper St. Stephen's Retreat Center
 St Stephen's: 2310 North 56th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008

**Our Lady of the Valley Celebrates Its
Patronage Feast: Inviting All BLD Members!!!**

The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15th. The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother also happens to be the patronage feast of our dear parish OLV. Same as last year, the parish will celebrate this feast on the eve. Come then and commemorate this Holy Day of Obligation this coming **August 14** (Thursday), with a Eucharistic Celebration at **5:30 PM**. Our OLV pastor Fr. Ed Kaminski will be the Eucharistic Celebrant. Following the Mass, there will be a potluck dinner sponsored by all ministries of OLV, coordinated by the Filipino Community and the Men's Club. *Ave Maria!*

BLD Phoenix

Welcomes the Graduates of Youth Encounter #4

July 25-27 - BLD Phoenix' YE 3 graduates graciously sponsored YE 4 with the support of the BLD Phoenix community. Fr. Pete Literal of Washington, DC was the Spiritual Director. Together with 2 home-grown facilitators Eeve Tejada & Matthew Kodumal and Newark's Nick Punzalan, they inspired the youth to truly have an awesome experience that touched and renewed their hearts. We welcome the graduates of YE 4: Ariana Baldevia, Karlo Bohol, AJ David, Billy Jay Estrada, May Ann Fajardo, Marijo Gabriel, Caryl Garcia, Jenette Javier, Jordan Javier, James Justimbaste, Natalie McLaughlin, Megan Pineda, Beatrice Saavedra, Raphael Sabado, JD Velasco, Gilliene Yap, Valerie Zapanta-Dispo, Vincent Zapanta-Dispo



**Now is the time to worship the Lord!
Let our praises echo throughout the earth!**

**Let us AFFIRM and CONFIRM one another
that the Lord has truly performed wondrous deeds
during our YE4 weekend!**

**Feast of the Assumption
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
-August 15: A Holy Day of Obligation-**

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated.



All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbled with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Savior.

The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

The prayer for the feast reads: "All-powerful and ever-living God: You raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul, to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory."

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven."

With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

Featured Saints of the Month

St. John Vianney - August 4 (Patron of Priests, Confessor)
St. John Eudes - August 19 (Devoted to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Confessor)

A Sight to Behold

"Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2)

As we all knelt down in prayer during the Saturday night vigil, my heart was overjoyed as I witnessed a community of believers, young and old, united in interceding for the candidates and facilitators of the Y.E. 4 weekend. I was in awe with our God for giving our young people the grace and the heart to carry the burdens of our Y.E. participants. With Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament, with the images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus present, there was really nothing to fear. I can only imagine how pleased Jesus and Mary were at that very moment.

It was wonderful to see the parents of our young intercessors kneeling right behind them, praying with them. It was truly a sight to behold...!

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." Acts 1:8



Above is the theme of **World Youth Day 2008!** This year, it was held on July 15-20 in Sydney, Australia and was attended by mostly the young people of 170 nations.

On the closing Mass on July 20, our dear Pope addressed the young people: "Dear young people, let me now ask you a question. What will you leave to the next generation? Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure? Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects Him in the name of a falsely-conceived freedom? How are you using the gifts you have been given, the 'power' which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you?"

"Empowered by the Spirit, and drawing upon faith's rich vision, a new generation of Christians is being called to help build a world in which God's gift of life is welcomed, respected and cherished - not rejected, feared as a threat and destroyed. A new age in which love is not greedy or self-seeking, but pure, faithful and genuinely free, open to others, respectful of their dignity, seeking their good, radiating joy and beauty. A new age in which hope liberates us from the shallowness, apathy and self-absorption which deaden our souls and poison our relationships. Dear young friends, the Lord is asking you to be prophets of this new age, messengers of His love, drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity.

Pope Benedict encouraged the young people to open their hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit. "I address this plea in a special way", he said, "to those of you whom the Lord is calling to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing His will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness, and using all your talents in the service of others!"

"The world", he added, "needs this renewal! In so many of our societies, side by side with material prosperity, a spiritual desert is spreading: an interior emptiness, an unnamed fear, a quiet sense of despair. How many of our contemporaries have built broken and empty cisterns in a desperate search for meaning, the ultimate meaning that only love can give?"

"The Church also needs this renewal!" the Holy Father exclaimed. "She needs your faith, your idealism and your generosity, so that she can always be young in the Spirit!"

We hope to see our own BLD Phoenix Youth experience the WYD in 2011 in...Madrid, Spain!!!

Youth Corner

"Let no one look down on you because of your youth, but set an example for those who believe in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity." (1 Tim. 4:12)



Our BLD community has witnessed yet another very successful Youth Encounter weekend (YE 4), welcoming 18 new energetic and passionate youth members. It was truly a weekend to remember as months of hard work, preparation and perseverance paid dividends. Everyone involved in the tasks and activities leading up to the weekend and during the weekend knew how strenuous a task, holding a Youth Encounter weekend is, especially recruiting the required "20 Candidates" for the weekend. However, with the grace of God, and the persistence of this BLD community we successfully held a very unforgettable Youth Encounter, one that is sure to remain in the hearts of many, and one which will hopefully serve as a catalyst for the revival of the Youth Ministry in BLD Phoenix.

What really began many months ago, with preparations and a lot of organizing, the official start date of the Youth Encounter was Friday, July 25, through to Sunday, July 27.



The arrival of the candidates was highly anticipated and once they came, we prayed and knew that God would reveal himself to us. The candidates themselves were full of anticipation as the weekend was about to unfold right before their eyes. Full of nerves I'm sure, the candidates were quietly participating in the introduction games and opening talks. But by the conclusion of the first night, we could all sense with a smile that these candidates would be easy to work with and more importantly, be willing to let themselves go to God. The first night ended with much satisfaction and excitement for the next day. Saturday was an eventful day as much of the content was done, and the candidates seemed like they were at a high comfort level. The microphone was open to anyone who had something to share and the candidates were not afraid to let their hearts speak with God. God was truly the main focus of the weekend thanks to his divine grace and the powerful prayers of the vigil room. Saturday was also highlighted by the skits of the groups as well as the "harana" by the sponsoring class and the auxies, which even included the candidates and the adults, everyone who was part of it certainly enjoyed. Sunday was a day filled with sharing storms and lifting burdens to the Lord for the candidates, which they did so openly. Sunday also featured the graduation of the candidates and their official welcome to the BLD Phoenix community. Overall the weekend was a success to say the least and everyone involved had fun and was touched by the presence of the Lord. Can't wait till next year!

-Sponsoring Class and Auxies-

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>

- ◆ DCS/IDLC Evaluation Meeting on Aug 9 @ 10 am at OLV. There will be a \$10 fee for lunch & dinner.

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.



Y.E. 4, welcome to the BLD family! We look forward to see you again on your Grand Reunion on Aug. 24! 'Hope you can make it! See you there!

August 31 - Come and celebrate the Eucharist together with the Filipino Community at Our Lady of the Valley's BLD-Sponsored 5 PM Filipino Mass!

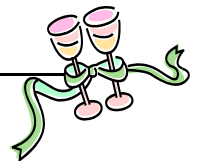
www.BLDPhoenix.com

AUGUST THEME AND PROMISE

- Week 1:** 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Compassion)
Theme: We participate in God's miracles when we respond to the needs of others.
Promise: *"The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and Satisfy the desire of every living thing."* (Ps 145:15 - 16)
- Week 2:** 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Faith)
Theme: We participate in God's miracles when we find Jesus in the storms of life and exhort others to do so.
Promise: *"The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase"* (Ps 85: 13)
- Week 3:** 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Justice; Persistence)
Theme: We participate in God's miracles when we inspire others to persevere in faith
Promise: *"...great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."* (Mat 15:28)
- Week 4:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Obedience)
Theme: We participate in God's miracles when we respect and obey our governing authority.
Promise: *"I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority"* (Isa 22: 21)
- Week 5:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Servanthood)
Theme: We participate in God's miracles when we willingly take up our cross and follow Jesus.
Promise: *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."* (Mat 16:25)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4 - Brian Bautista (YE 1)
- 7 - Ramon Querol (ME 4)
- 8 - Carl Javier (ME 6)
- 13 - M J Navarro (YE 2)
- 14 - Ariel Bautista (ME7)
- 22 - Lina Saguid (ME6)
- 23 - Ben Tejada (YE 2)
- 26 - Helen Gutierrez (ME 7)



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

None on file

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of July 2008

<i>Receipts</i>	\$ 3,073.47
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 1,806.88
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$ 1,266.59

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

Thank you for your generosity!