



## Month of August

**WORD:** *The favor of the Lord is upon us when we witness to the glory of Jesus, His beloved Son.*

**Aug 06:** Dn 7:9-10,13-14

Ps 97:1-2,5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19

Mk 9:2-10

**Aug 13:** Kg 19:4-8

Ps 34:2-9; Ep 4:30-5:2

Jn 6:41-51

**Aug 20:** Pr 9:1-6

Ps 34:2-7; Ep 5:15-20

Jn 6:51-58

**Aug 27:** Js 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Ps 34:2-3, 16-21; Ep 5:21-32

Jn 6:60-69

**ORDER:** *“This is my beloved Son, listen to Him.” (Mk 9:7b)*

## DIRECTIONS:

*1. Be righteous and obedient; listen to God rather than to men; be imitator of Christ to live in His love; do not be ashamed to witness.*

## PROPHECIES:

- 1. I am the Lord your God; do not follow false gods in your lives. Follow the ways of my Son and I will be pleased with you.*
- 2. Listen and obey me as I do with my Father in Heaven and I will bless you abundantly.*
- 3. Be transformed that you too may witness my glory.*
- 4. Be a bearer of the prophetic message so that the seed that you sow in my name shall bring forth a bountiful harvest and transfigure the land.*
- 5. Do not be afraid to share your experience of God and be a lamp shining in a dark place until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*

## Perfect Figure

Many people are conscious of their figures, regardless of their gender. So today let us reflect on our figures.

Everybody wants to have a perfect figure — either for vanity or health. But what is a perfect figure? Is it 36-24-34 for women and an inverted triangle for men? But we have come across people who are in good shape but are not necessarily in good health. A perfect figure must then be more than what meets the eye. Figure is the totality of a person. Perfect figure is having a healthy soul and body. Perfect figure means perfect health; and perfect health means perfect life.

The transfiguration of the Lord is a revelation of His inner Self in all its intrinsic glory and beauty. It is a cry that comes from His deepest within, that refuses to regard the physical as the ultimate basis of perfection. It is a celebration of His beauty even in the shadow of His seeming lack of it.

The passion and death of Jesus would certainly render His body ugly and revolting. On top of a mountain, Jesus manifested to His closest disciples that the suffering and death He would soon endure could not destroy the beauty and glory He always had. While betrayal, denial, hunger, thirst, loneliness, fear, torture and crucifixion would bring upon Jesus the agony and horror of death, they could not distort His perfect figure: He is the Father’s Beloved Son. Obedience to the Father would disfigure Jesus so that He may configure us to His perfect figure.

*Continued on page 3...*

## Keeping our Focus

*By Phoenix DIP Shepherds: Chito & Aileen Ciocon*

When I was teaching my teen-aged kids to drive, my most common advice to them was: “Keep your eyes on the road.” Likewise, in order for a community to grow and bear fruit, all its members too must “keep their focus on Jesus and on Him alone.”

It has been nine months since my wife and I were asked to assist the BLD Phoenix community in its struggles to live out the BLD community covenant and truly, the Lord has been so gracious, kind, and merciful both to us and to the community. We are privileged to be a part of the tremendous growth of the community and its members. From a chaotic start, we now have some semblance of order. Ministries have been formed, many members have caught up with their teachings and the District Leaders Conference (DLC) has been implemented. *Continued next page...*



## MESSAGE

It seems only a few days ago that BLD started, but BLD is already 21 years old.

“As a Communion of individuals, couples, and families called together as one people through a moment of encounter and the process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope and love of God”– BLD is committed to build communities of disciples of Jesus Christ and to promote programs for servant-leadership and poverty alleviation in society.

Through your various commitments, under the five apostolates, you are enabling yourselves to become instruments in addressing the many spiritual, moral and social concerns of Church and Society. I will not enumerate them. Instead, I challenge you to recognize them yourselves in your respective contexts.

In a very simple way, let me exhort you that in every level of apostolate it is important that each recognizes “to whom he/she is becoming Jesus” or “who is (becoming) Jesus to you.” What is most important, in the end, is our Christian influence in society.

I take this occasion to express my and the BLD’s profound gratitude to all the out-going officers, and to assure the incoming officers of BLD with our cooperation and prayer. To all – our deepest appreciation!

**+Angel N. Lagdameo**

Archbishop of Jaro and BLD Spiritual Director  
23 June 2006

### THEMES & PROMISES FOR AUGUST:

#### **Week#1 (Feast of the Transfiguration)**

**Theme:** We witness to the glory of Jesus when we listen to Him

**Promise:** “*You will do well to be attentive to it (prophetic message).*” (2 Peter 1:19b)

#### **Week#2 (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We witness to the glory of Jesus when we believe that Jesus is the bread of eternal life

**Promise:** “*Amen, amen I say to you whoever believes has eternal life.*” (John 6:47)

#### **Week #3 (20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We witness to the glory of Jesus when we receive Him in the Eucharist.

**Promise:** “*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day*” (John 6:54)

#### **Week #4 (21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time)**

**Theme:** We witness to the glory of Jesus when we remain in humble service of the Church.

**Promise:** “*The lowly will hear me and be glad*” (Psalms 34:2)

### **Keeping our Focus *continued...***

Solo Parents and Singles Encounters have been given as well as the Agony in the Garden and Washing of the Feet retreats. LSS#4 will be held next month and also a few more members will be sealing their covenants. The discipleship formation program has been regularized and will soon be back on track. Local sharers are being developed and more home-grown teachers will soon be a reality. We knew the challenge was great but we also had confidence that the Lord was Greater than any challenge we would face.

On the feast of the Transfiguration this month, it is indeed timely to look back at what the Lord has accomplished through His Holy Spirit and with the eager participation and cooperation of all the members of BLD Phoenix. Many good things have happened, a lot of transformations in hearts and minds have occurred, much work has been completed but much more needs to be done. We need to continue to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. There will be many distractions along the way. We will experience frustrations, setbacks, and hurts. The road will be narrow and loaded with many twists, turns and bumps but we must persevere by always keeping our focus on the Lord.

As we continue to pursue the Lord’s call for each one of us, let us follow His words in John 15:5, which says: “*I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.*” The Lord still has a myriad of plans for BLD Phoenix. He is just waiting and wanting to perform many more miracles through us. Let us be open to His Spirit. Let us soak in His Word. Let us remain in Him and allow Him to remain in us through regular reception of the Eucharist. Let us become branches that are always grafted to the Vine and yet are also being constantly pruned. Only then can we bear much fruit. Only then can BLD Phoenix live out God’s Will and become a powerful instrument in the Lord’s hands.

### **The Pearl of Great Price: A Reflection**

(Presiding DCS)

What do we consider our treasures in this lifetime? What are the strong attractions in our present world that would motivate us to work night and day just to get them? What do we do to assure us that we will possess them, not for a while, but for generations to come? What price do we pay to guarantee us the peace of mind that no one will ever get them from us? What are these treasures that we keep so close to our hearts that all we do is admire their beauty and the prestige that they give us? *Continued next page...*

## **A Pearl of Great Price** *continued...*

Have we given second thought that all these treasures are God given gifts and are not to be kept but shared? Or does the possession of such worldly treasures motivate and empower us to reach out to share it with others? Does it embolden us to give them away knowing that it is in giving and sharing them with those who need them more that will make it grow a hundredfold? In Matthew's Gospel, (Mt. 13:44-46) the "kingdom of God" is likened to a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. It is like a merchant searching for fine pearls and when he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Then the Kingdom of God is a treasure that cannot be kept in isolation or kept in the privacy of peoples' minds and hearts. The Kingdom of God should be shared and be brought to the ends of the earth.

As I traveled and journeyed from one life to another, I have considered God's Word as the pearl of great price. It has made me move to extraordinary activity to obtain it, know more about it and apply it to my life but most importantly to share it with everyone. Such is my treasure and my having God's Word in my heart has brought me to experience His kingdom even in this lifetime. God's Word has drawn me to Jesus and has deepened my relationship with Him and His brethren. Possessing my pearl of great price has made me understand the supreme value of total self giving for it is in my nothingness that peace and joy abound in my heart.

**Direction:** We need to give up ALL to follow Jesus.

"Heavenly Father, give me the grace not only to deepen my love for your Word but to be able to share it with everyone. In Jesus' Mighty Name, I hope and pray. Amen."

**Perfect Figure...***continued from first page...*

"This is my Beloved Son. Listen to Him," declares the Father. We fix our eyes on Jesus and see the real meaning of our otherwise seemingly meaningless sufferings. Through Jesus' words we learn the value of our sufferings even when our sufferings seem to have little, if any, value at all.

With Jesus, through Jesus, and in Jesus we are able to transform our crosses into sources of grace, our death into life, our brokenness into perfection. Thus, while transfiguration is for Jesus, configuration to Jesus is for us. The challenge for us is to follow not only what Jesus said but how Jesus lived. May we become more and more like Jesus. This then is the perfect figure: a life configured to Christ.

## **MONTHLY TEACHINGS**

(Every 3rd Weekend of the Month-Venue TBA)

Aug 19 - "Christian Parenting" (Open for All)

19 - Discipling (By Invitation)

Aug 20 - "Christian Love", "Christian Suffering" and "Christian Witness" (for DLC)

Sept 16 - "New Creation Realities" and "Growth in Prayer" (for LSS 4 Class)

Oct 21 - "Basic Bible Study" (for LSS 4 Class)

Oct 22 - Teachings for the DLC  
(Topic/s to be determined)



## **Pope Benedict's First Encyclical** ***Deus Caritas Est***

("God is Love") 1 Jn 4:16  
(1st Series of 5)

### **"...But What Is Love?"**

**L**ove is a word that can take on so many different meanings. We love our family, our country, our favorite foods, and our pets. But can we really grasp the full meaning of the good news that "God is Love" (1 Jn 4:8), or the command "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12), based on the worldly definitions of that word?

In this encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI takes on this very question, so basic to understanding who we are as disciples of Jesus and what that means for us in the world. What is Love? What kind of life does God's love call us to?

Pope Benedict explores the Greek concepts of *eros* and *agape* in depth in this encyclical, pointing out that they are dimensions of love that complete each other. *Eros* is that emotional, physically driven desire for union with another. *Agape* is self-sacrificing love. *Eros* separated from *agape* results exploitation and dehumanization, something we have seen in some ancient cultures and can see clearly today. *Agape* apart from *Eros* risks a drying up, a diminishment, for we cannot just give—we must receive love in order to give it. Immersed in the intimacy of God's love, we are nourished, so that we can, indeed, love as He did.

### **True Love**

Love is a natural, primordial element of human life. It brings man and woman together, binds parents to children, and friends through adversity. Pagan philosophers thought a great deal about love and carefully defined it. But there was more, and this "more" is revealed, first, in God's relationship with Israel.

- God reveals that He is not—as the ancient Greeks believed—an impersonal force of creativity and wisdom.

*Continued next page...*

### Regular Monthly Schedule

**2nd, 4th & 5th Fridays -7:30 PM:**

Corporate Praise & Worship (Rosary at 7 PM)

**3rd Fridays-7:30 PM:**

Corporate Praise & Worship-Youth: (Rosary at 7 PM)

**Every 1st Friday-7:30 PM:**

Healing Mass

Eucharistic Adoration/Confession (6 PM)

### Community Calendar/Events

**Aug 11-13** Singles Encounter (SE) #1

**Aug 27** Filipino Community Sunday Mass at OLV  
(Sponsored by BLD-every last Sunday)

**Sept 8-10** Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) #4

### Reunions

**Aug 6** #3-M.E. 5 (Kodumal Residence)

**Aug 26** #4-Y.E. 2 (Venue to be announced)

### Church Calendar

**Aug 15** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

## Birthdays

Aug 4 - Brian Bautista (YE 1)

Aug 7 - Ramon Querol (ME 4)

Aug 13 - M J Navarro (YE 2)

Aug 19 - Jesseca Gonzales (YE 2)

Aug 23 - Ben Tejada (YE 2)

Aug 26 - Wendy Dinglasan (ME 5)

Aug 29 - Patrick Merrick (ME 5)

Aug 31 - Josh Irwin (YE 1)

Aug 31 - A J Maun (YE 2)

## Anniversaries

-None for August-

### Bible Trivia:

1. Where did the Transfiguration occur? Mount Tabor
2. Whom of the apostles witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus? Peter, John & James

## **THE LORD'S PROVISIONS**

Cash flow as of July 2006

*Receipts* \$ 2,196.87

*Disbursements* \$ 2,728.12

*Surplus* \$ -(531.25)  
*(Deficits)*

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

**www.BLDPhoenix.com**

## **Ministry Announcements**

### Intercessory Ministry

The contents of the weekly Intercessory Prayers are generally updated on a monthly basis. Please offer petitions again for continuous prayers and/or update 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](mailto:dennyc1220@cox.net).

### Life in the Spirit Apostolate (LSA)

There will be a LSS#4 Team meeting on Aug. 4, 2006 to follow after Healing Mass at OLV Room 7. See Gerry & Gladdine Bautista for any concerns regarding the LSSW. To all other LSS graduates, please sign-up (sign-in sheet at Registration Area) to serve during the LSS weekend.

### Secretariat

To all encountered members/LSS graduates: please sign the attendance sheets provided at the entrance of the chapel every Friday. ID's are to be picked-up at same area and to be worn during all Friday activities and to be turned in after. If for some reason your name is not found in the attendance or in the ID box, we apologize. Please bring it to the attention of Jonathan & Eunice Lureñana personally or by e-mail at [secretariat@BLDPhoenix.com](mailto:secretariat@BLDPhoenix.com). A temporary sticker ID will be provided for guests and non-encountered/non-LSS graduate regular attendees.

### Other Announcements:

>There will be no Friday activity at OLV this Aug. 11 (SE Weekend).

>Installation of Rev. Rey Clutario, SOLT on Sept. 3, 2006 at 10:30 AM at St. Joseph Mission, Camp Verde, AZ.

### **Pope's Encyclical *continued...***

- God is not-as were the idols that pagans worshipped -unpredictable and self-serving.
- God is One who relates to us in love: creating us, sustaining us, and calling us to relationship in Him.

What is radical about the Old Testament witness is how it reveals that the passion and drive of *eros* are actually dimensions of God's love. Marriage and passionate love are used as metaphors for God's love for us, and the creation of Adam and Eve for each other tells us that the love that brings man and woman together is from God. Mystically, it reflects the structure of creation and the love of God.

The people of Israel were surrounded by cultures that misunderstood and misused the physical and emotional drive called *eros*, the drive that seeks ecstasy through union with another. Nothing much has changed. God's revelation to the world (including us), through Israel, is that this kind of love is not the enemy of true love, but one dimension of it. This dimension, properly focused and purified, can actually, miraculously, be transformed into a selfless commitment. Molded and shaped by God, we can love as He does.

**Next issue- Jesus: Love Itself**