

Month of December

WORD: Redemption is at hand to those who are vigilant for the coming of Jesus, the Son of Man.

READINGS

November 29 Jer 33:14-16
Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14
1Thes 3:12-4:2
Lk 21:25-28,34-36

December 6 Bar 5:1-9
Ps 126:1-6
Phil 1:4-6,8-11
Lk 3: 1-6

December 13 Zep 3:14-18
Is 12:2-6
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-18

December 20 Mic 5:1-4
Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

December 27 Sir 3:2-6,12-14
Ps 128:1-5
Col 3:12-21
Lk 12:41-52

A Christmas Message

As the year closes, we cannot but remember the joys and pains we had together in BLD as a family. We are close because we are one body, and yet too, we are set apart, for we are each, a living custodian of our own lives and our separate sets of God given gifts and blessings.

Ramon and Ludy Cuasay
Presiding Core, BLD Phoenix DCS

MONTHLY COUNSELS

Dec 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Repentance)

Theme: We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when we repent of our sins.
Promise: "Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Lk 3: 5-6)

Reflection: "Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights." If I were to imagine that the Lord had specifically addressed those words to me, "Stand upon the heights," it is my invitation to perfection. When I was a child I took those words to heart to achieve the goals of the child in me. As I grew up, I also took those words to mind and learned that the child's goals I could achieve them all as they had limited scope. Even an adult's goals had defined horizons too, yet I could not get them all, and not for the lack of trying. Yet did the Lord speak those words to mean to depend on him and on no other, to stand on his shoulders as to stand upon the heights without a constricting scope, without a limiting horizon, without any boundaries at all, for God is leading...by the light of his glory. Both the child and the man in me understood that in the human sphere that perishes, we save for a rainy day, but in God's world that does not end, he wants us to save for the day of Christ, and to be always ready, to be always prepared for that ultimate day. God desires our vigilance for the kind of love that may increase ever more and more in knowledge...to discern what is of value that we may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. To that end did John, the forerunner of Christ, proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of our sins. Every valley of our unrest and yearning shall be filled, every mountain and hill of our pride and straying shall be made low, and the rough ways of our groaning and murmuring made smooth, and our flesh shed of its sackcloth and parted from the ashes shall see the salvation of God.
Prayer: Jesus, help me make straight your path to me. I thank you for your patience and your mercy. May you be as lovingly welcome into my heart as you lovingly welcome me. Amen.

Order: Prepare the way of the Lord. (Lk3:4b)

Direction: Aim to be pure and blameless. Come to praise and worship frequently. Go to confession regularly. Spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament frequently.

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Simbang-Gabi 2009

December 18, 2009

7:30 PM Our Lady of the Valley

Simbang-Gabi with Bishop Olmsted

December 23, 2009

7:30 PM Sts. Simon and Jude
(Phoenix Cathedral)

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Merry Christmas

from BLD Phoenix



Website: www.BLDPhoenix.com

Group E-mail: BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com

Counsels continued from page 1...

Dec 13: Third Sunday of Advent (Kindness)

Theme: We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when we joyfully show kindness to all.

Promise: *"The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 4: 7)

Reflection: We hear what the crowds asked John the Baptist, **"What should we do?"** Each one's heart will give a different response, but the response will address the honest answer we give to what we perceive as the pressing blunder that still separates us from God's complete conquest of our abject human situation. When one says, "Let me serve you, Lord," he means, let me serve you, God, and others who represent you my Lord not out of a sense of duty, but out of love. To serve is not an obligation. It is a joyful kindness that comes down from you my Lord, a privilege and an honor, to be asked to be like you, my Christ... When one says, "I will share my fortunes, Lord," he means exactly that, that if he has two cloaks, he has to share with the one who has none; that if he can share someone a ride to praise and worship on Fridays, he can also share with others a Christmas meal, to have someone come into his house to share some memories, or to begin a friendship whose aim is to start to build great memories. .. When one says, "Forgive me, Lord," he means, forgive me dear wife, dear family, dear friends. I am sorry that I have not appreciated the joy of your company more sweetly and more cheerfully as you all deserve... When one says, "Let me be patient, " he means he is a bore; he is always busy with himself and his many interests; he is always in a haste to get someone to do a job or two; he is always in a rush to get his pat on the back, the gentle massage for his ego to keep warm. O, let me be patient my Lord, that others may have the patience with me that I have scarce little to give them as they deserve. ..

Prayer: Jesus, I give thanks to you. I acclaim your name. Let me be kind as you are kind. Let me be as sincere in friendship and as earnest in love and service as you are. Amen.

Order: **"Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name."** (Is 12: 3)

Direction: Show kindness to all. Treat everyone with respect and dignity. Share God's peace.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Obedience)

Theme: We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when, like Mary, we do the will of the Father.

Promise: ***"Blessed are you who believe that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*** (Lk 1: 45)

Reflection: There is no obscure corner or far off place that the Lord will not consider blessed to him. He chose Bethlehem, a backward village, to be the birthplace of his son become flesh. There is not a man or woman God will set apart from his love. He chose a poor girl, a virgin, in whose womb and body, the Christ was prepared for his coming. There is no creature who has been born and who is yet to be born who is not sacred and special to the Lord. This latter thought alone gives me hope and faith. Among innumerable possibilities God chose me to be born. He gave me my name, blessed me with his attention, tolerated my faults and failings, forgave me my offenses, waived away all my indiscretions and transgressions to lavish me with every chance there is to bear fruit, that I may become subject to his will, that he may wait on me to turn my life around, that I may believe in his promise, to depend on his mercy, to ultimately be reconciled to him and in the end become fulfilled as only God can make this

.undistinguished person like me come through, chastened and changed, as God alone envisioned for things to be from the beginning. I believe in miracles. Though I have yet to be a full blown miracle, I trust in God's wisdom to put the final flourish of his painter's brush on my life, and that Mary, the mother of my Lord by God's grace, has also lovingly interceded for me, that I may do the will of the Father. O, the vigilance of him who believes and does the will of the Father is pleasing to the Lord. Through obedience, ever persistent and persevering, the delight of the Lord shall come forth. And joy and peace without parallel shall reign in the hearts of all.

Prayer: Jesus, I thank you for your love and generous mercy. I am sorry that I have ever offended you who are so good and deserving of love. Amen.

Order: **"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."** (Ps 80: 20)

Direction: Turn to the Lord. Depart not from his ways. Let us do his will as obedient children do.

Dec 27: Feast of the Holy Family (Respect)

Theme: We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when we honor the sanctity of the family.

Promise: *"When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened with children."* (Sir 3: 5)

Reflection: Our lives start in **our family**. The Feast of the Holy Family appropriately ends our calendar year. Our mother and father and we, their children, constitute this unit which we call **our family**. We have tried our best to build and shape **our family** according to the model of the Holy Family. **There will always be a gap** however, between our efforts and what we have succeeded in building, but in our love and willingness to continue our life's work, the Holy Family takes delight. With respect and love, with patience and commitment, our family without rival retains the title of best family to come home to. There are too many rooms in some houses. But the biggest, warmest, most welcoming room is the kitchen or the dining room where we break bread in remembrance of the Lord, where we eat our soup and drink our warm milk or hot chocolate and share the best memories of our lives. We have childhood hurts and wounds. Who does not have any? We have family misunderstandings and sibling rivalries but the lives we lived in our family homes remain the great treasure from which we draw our strength, our consolation, our energy for burdens yet ahead. Without life's burdens or problems, we would not have any need for the family.

"God sets a father over his children; a mother's authority over her sons. In our family, yes, in our home, there was always a father to honor, a mother to love and children to dote on and care for, exactly as God intends. **"Put on... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..."** In our family, yes, in our home, we met those virtues and learned them. Like everyone else we met our first challenges and lessons with less than grace, but hard earned grace did come in time, as it must, for all who advance **in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.**

Continued on last page...

Christmas with the BLD Family

Christmas with family evokes the sound of trumpets and cymbals, the sight of lights in glitter and sizzle, the smells and flavors of rich cuisine. Was it so with BLD Phoenix? Was celebration all out or a little subdued? Was it because it was held on December 5 when everyone else in Arizona was just in Advent? When you invite families from the East and the West Valleys to Madonna Hall of the Queen of Peace Parish in Mesa as though to a peace summit, what visions did you expect? Maybe to a few who are familiar with BLD history, it may have conjured a different vision. Perhaps briefly, it came to mind, the chaos of the Big Bang that started the Cosmos. Or in a smaller scale, it may have dramatized the poignant, ethnic tension of the West Side Story when romance suffers the way of stars that collide and blood spills before All is well again, but that is just to whet your appetite for the 2009 BLD Phoenix Christmas Story...

Festive events the BLD way always come with The Eucharistic Feast. It was celebrated by Fr. Reggie Carreon, after which all in attendance were invited to share the blessings of a catered extravaganza – salad, pasta, rice pilaf, chicken casserole, pork and assorted sweets. As family tradition goes, the program had to feature or showcase every single one who came, or at least, his age group. You have to sell your wares, share your native talents, sometimes in evident abundance and sometimes in shy hiding, but for This Night, there were no excuses. The name of the game was fun, and fun was the only currency available and it must all be spent, no IOU's, no checks, no credit cards, please, even if we all knew that Santa Claus this year came from California.

Every person who was there at the Christmas Party would have had his choice of "favorite group performer." It is so in a democracy. In truth, there was no contest. We did not need any.



Marriage Encounter #10

January 8-10, 2010

ME 10 will be held at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center, 5750 E. Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85205

Please invite your friends to attend the coming ME 10. This is our opportunity to bring them closer together as a couple and closer to Christ. Let us share with them the wonderful encounter experience we all had. God bless.

Requirements: Registration Info and Catholic Marriage Certificate or please find ME 10 Registration Packet for more info at www.BLDPhoenix.com

Every grouping had a different appeal, a different slant of charisma, a different shade of joy this side of paradise. It is always an easy sell when you have Mark 10 and John 6 on the floor, and they are not even my children. The Singles and The Youth, they are always a vibrant group, the promise of Our Future. As for the rest of the performers, every spouse or every friend without hesitation would vote each one of them as "Best Performer in Any Category," just for the sheer joy of getting them to perform, in the name of community, and ultimately, in God's name. The more difficult question to ponder really was, "Who really had more fun, the performer or the spectator?" Or to raise the question to the next level of consciousness, "Did God have more fun, or did we?" There is no contest involved in the question. There is no poll either. But of this I am certain, Christ was there with the BLD Phoenix family in our Christmas Party, as Christ always is and ever will be with us in all the seasons of his love. RSC



TDP IN PHOENIX

Teachers' Development Program

Nov 14-15, 2009

Madonna Hall, Queen of Peace Church, Mesa, AZ.

Formation Apostolate of BLD Phoenix sponsored the second TDP teaching weekend.

The first day began with Ramon and Ludy Causay leading the teachers and participants in praise and worship and giving an overview of the two-day program. The main objective of the weekend was to cultivate and develop BLD members with teaching gifts to become BLD district instructors.

Teaching team from Newark included the following: Ollie Felibrico, Rene Castaneda, Noel Trillana, Richard de la Fuente, and Chito Ciocon and Roger Santiago.

Participants of the week-end program were: Alex/Lina Alba, Jess/Ning Laforteza, Rey/Ann Conopio, Jonathan/Eunice Lureñana, Denny/Nina Custodio, Joseph/Milrose Kodumal, Evan/Joie Pangilinan, Gerry/Gladdine Bautista, Crosby/Mariz Cortez, Arlene Junia, Marie Lazaro, and Mario de Leon. Arnie Lapinig and Polly Lim came from BLD San Francisco.

The topics were: Catechesis, Elements, Sources, Agents in the Ministry of Teaching, and the Master Teacher. Each teacher illustrated with clarity and genuine interest when they shared their knowledge, wisdom, wit and candor. Candidates are to catechize using the Word of God: Scriptures, Tradition and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church and are encouraged to have an appropriate attitude and sound teaching skills to properly convey the good news.

After the last teaching on Sunday, each candidate instructor had a face to face interview with a BLD Newark teacher couple and one Phoenix teaching ministry couple to explain what moved him or her to want to teach, what in his or her gift of person might she contribute to the Teaching Ministry, and last of all, what Topic or Subject or Thesis was he or she prepared to develop as a Teaching Module for the community. As a final test to check what they had learned from the Seminar, six groups of four candidates each except one that had five, were then asked to present to their teacher panels a topic of their choice. It was amazing each group was able to develop a presentation in such short time. They credibly demonstrated teaching skills under fire. SL

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of November 2009

Receipts \$2,836.95

Disbursements \$3,516.94

Surplus (Deficits) \$(679.95)

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

Counsels continued (Feast of the Holy Family)...

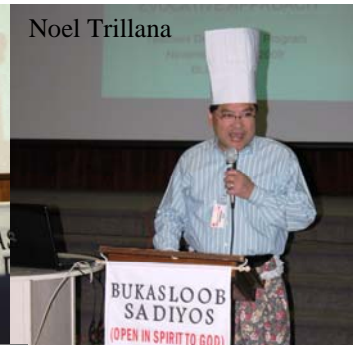
Prayer: Jesus, I thank you for the example of your Holy Family. May our life in our home here on earth, by your grace Jesus, merit for us life in your Father's home. Amen.

Order: "...teach and admonish one another." (Col 3: 16)

Direction: Do everything in the name of Jesus, our brother. Give thanks to the Father through Jesus. RSC



Ollie Felibrico



Noel Trillana



Richard de la Fuente



Rene Castañeda
BUKASLOOB SADIYOS



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - James Laforteza | 19 - Brian Tejada |
| 2 - Eevee Tejada | 20 - Maria Hilary Cassano |
| 6 - Fr. Joshua Alvero | 24 - Noei Carballo |
| 7 - Lulu Lam | 25 - Dimitri Korionoff |
| 7- Ross Carballo | 26 - Eva Ward |
| 8 - Ludy Cuasay | 27 - Maribel Siongco |
| 12 - Ray Ansay | 27 - Lorenzo Galicia |
| 12 - Carmelo Larracas | 30 - Judy Bautista |
| 13 - Eunice Lureñana | 30 - Steve Hey |
| 13 - Art David | 30 - John Minch |
| 18 - Billy Jay Estrada | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11 - Fr. Reggie Carreon | 23- Roy & Julie Ann Fernandez |
| 12 - Manny & Ruby Dizon | |
| 12 - Nelson & Malou Reyes | 23 - Joe & Lydia Saguid |
| 20 - Ramon & Fe Querol | 24 - Ross & Noei Carballo |
| 21 - Rollie & Justice Tabora | 25 -Simon & Lulu Lam |
| 22 - Lee & Arlene Junia | 25 - Jun & Lina Saguid |
| 22 - Ariel & Judy Bautista | 30 - Pedro & Cita Rivera |