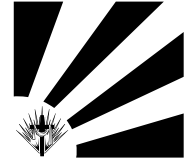




BLD PHOENIX
Valley of the SON
 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Issue 7

July 2008

Month of July

WORD: *As disciples of Jesus, we need to learn and live His meekness and humility.*

READINGS

July 06 Zec 9:9-10
 Ps 145:1-2,8-11, 13-14
 Rom 8:9, 11-13
 Mt 11:25-30

July 13 Is 55:10-11
 Ps 65:10-14
 Rom 8:18-23
 Mt 13:1-23

July 20 Wis 12:13, 16-19
 Ps 6, 9-10, 15-16
 Rom 8: 26-27
 Mt 13:24-43

July 27 Kings 3:5, 7-12
 Ps 119: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
 Rom 8:28-30
 Mt 13:44-52

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Be meek, humble and compassionate toward all -- your family, those in your workplace and in our Community.*
2. *Learn from Jesus by reading the Scriptures daily; lift up all who are falling by the ministry of the Word that gives life.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Learn my meekness and humility of heart and you will find rest and peace.*
2. *Rely on the Holy Spirit that He may purify and humble you.*

ORDER (BLD GLOBAL):

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart." (Mt 11:29)

BLD Phoenix Encounters & Seminars 2008

July 25-27: Youth Encounter #4
 Sept 12-14: Life in the Spirit Seminar #7

July 27 - Come and celebrate the Holy Mass with the Filipino Community at Our Lady of the Valley's BLD-Sponsored 5 PM Filipino Mass (every last Sunday of the month)



Archdiocese of Jaro

**Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community
 Global Districts**

MESSAGE

On BLD's 23rd Year Anniversary



In two years time BLD Global will be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of its foundation to celebrate its history of blessings and graces. Of course, the BLD community is the first to enjoy this history of blessings and graces. Doubtless the questions will be: What are they? And how did they come about?

I would like to invite the BLD Community to go beyond the personal and communitarian blessings. I invite you to become or to continue to be a blessing outside the group "through a growing, preferential option for the poor, in the spirit of servanthood and stewardship."

Stewardship is an alternative to servant-leadership. Servant first, and leader second. Stewardship is a radical form of discipleship. A steward acknowledges, first of all, that he is and all that he has ultimately are a gift from God, who is the primordial Owner. As a steward whatever one gives away, he gives not what is his, but what is God's.

Stewardship is an attitude, a discipline, a state of mind, a spirituality that enables us to practice or live out the principle of common good and the principle of the universal destination of goods.

It is in this spirit that we understand what Jesus told his disciples: "If you want to be my disciple, give up all and come follow me" (cf. Mt. 19/21-22). Our Lord was not talking of 10% or tithing. *He was talking about giving all to the poor.* What radicalism! It can only be possible with God! This is the stewardship that Jesus talks about in Mt. 25/14-30.

I invite you to a challenging reflection. God bless you.

+ ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO
 Archbishop of Jaro
 BLD Spiritual Director
 June 10, 2008

Reflections for July

Our BLD Statutes states that, *"As disciples, we believe that membership in the BLD Covenant Community requires total commitment of ourselves to the person of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It means union of mind, heart and spirit with other Christian individuals, couples, and families, in obedience to God the Father and at the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is premised on the belief that living in Jesus Christ is the essence of salvation and that full Christian maturity develops only from true discipleship with Jesus Christ and love for others."*

This is the sacred significance of our membership in Community: to be in loving communion with God and with others. But to lead a life dedicated to our Lord and to others is easier said than done. In truth, we often find ourselves grappling with our human weaknesses. *Continued next page...*

"Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

-Matt 9:9-

Marriage Encounter #8

June 6-8, 2008 - The BLD Phoenix community welcomes the Marriage Encounter #8 graduates and their families with joyous and grateful hearts. The weekend encounter was held at the Living Water Retreat Center in Cornville, Arizona (about 20 miles from Sedona).

It was a beautiful Friday in Cornville (much cooler temperature than Phoenix). One car after the other maneuvered at the Living Water Retreat Center parking lot with all excited passengers and drivers coming out and they were the members of the sponsoring class (ME 7) and the auxies

With all the teams going about their own tasks for the weekend, Friday ended with utmost anticipation for the work of God manifested on the next two days of the ME weekend.

Fr. Chris Panlilio (from New Jersey) was the Spiritual Director for the weekend. Together with BLD Phoenix's DIP Shepherds, Chito & Aileen Ciocon as one of the couple sharers and BLD Phoenix's very own, Joseph & Milrose Kodumal as the other couple sharers, composed the ME 8 Pastoral Team.

Together with the Pastoral Team, the ME 8 Class Shepherds, Rey & Mary Ann Conopio, were called to lead this flock of seven couples who responded to the Lord's calling: Richard & Lydia Bauer, Art & Marissa Crisostomo, Nante & Anabelle Gaña, Rudy & Betty Jaravata, Joe & Lydia Saguid, Lowell & Willa Villanueva and Vic & Pam Zapanta.

We all witnessed the loving work of our Lord and received His healing graces through the weekend. We hope and pray that the class of ME 8 will continue to listen and respond to the voice of God to labor in His vineyard together with the BLD community. Thank you very much to the sponsoring class ME 7, auxies, friends & families for your prayers and for your labor of love. Your generosity and servant hearts will never go unnoticed and unrewarded in the eyes of our Lord. May we continue to work for the glory of God. To God be the Glory for the things He has wonderfully and powerfully done for us!



Reflections for July

*Reflections continued...*At times, we do not have time to seek the Lord because of our temporal concerns, our pursuit of wealth, power, and other worldly priorities. At times, we are unable to reach out to others because of pride, self-righteousness, and other human shortcomings.

When we stumble in our walk with our Lord, let us offer our difficulties to the Savior. Psalm 145 assures us, ***"The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises us all who are bowed down"*** (Ps 145:14). When we are burdened by our sinfulness, let us claim the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit. In the first Sunday of the month, St. Paul exhorts us, ***"You are not in the flesh ... you are in the spirit ... if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live"*** (Rom 8:9a.13b). Let us place our trust in Christ's reassurance and promise: ***"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened ... take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves"*** (Mt 11:28-29).

In those moments when we find ourselves spiritually dry, we can be likened to the thorny soil, the rocky ground, or the pathway on which the seed of God's Word is sown, but cannot grow. In times like these, let us humbly ask our Lord to rid us of our willfulness and to inspire us to do His will. Let us claim our Lord's words in Isaiah, on the second Sunday of the month, ***"my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it"*** (Is 55:11). With Christ's meekness and humility, let us always be the rich soil on which God's Word bears fruit in abundance.

When we find it difficult and challenging to follow and fulfill our BLD covenant, and when we are spiritually weak, let us pray to our gracious God and claim St. Paul's words to the Romans in the third Sunday, ***"The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought ..."*** (Rom 8:26). Let us humbly admit our human weaknesses before the Lord and ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit; that we may be the good wheat growing among the weeds. With Christ's meekness and humility, let us strive to be the good seed, with the hope of being gathered into God's kingdom as His children.

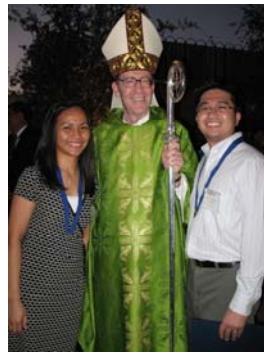
When we cannot understand how the trials we are experiencing can come from our Lord, when we cannot see how our hurts are meant for our good, let us meekly bow to our Lord's will and with total faith, claim St. Paul's words to the Romans in the fourth Sunday, ***"... all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to this purpose"*** (Rom 8:28). With Christ's meekness and humility, let us ask our God for ***"... a heart so wise and understanding ..."*** (1 Kings 3:12a). Let us learn to discern and accept God's will for our lives, for indeed His ways are way above our ways.

Brothers and sisters, let us learn and live the humility of Christ, exemplified during His ministry on earth. Only through Christ's humility can we die to our pride, our self-righteousness, and our human will. St. Paul reminds us that only through humility can we submit ourselves willingly to the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in all of us. By being truly like Christ, we can be worthy of Christ's promise of finding rest and peace in communion with our Lord and with our brethren. Only then can we be worthy of Christ's promise of eternal life.

Prepare the Way

By Joie Pangilinan

*"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make
straight paths for him."*



I have long wanted to know more of my Catholic faith. Growing up with a Catholic Education didn't seem to satisfy. Joining the renewal in the charismatic community has fueled that longing again to seek formal instruction. I wanted questions answered; I wanted explanation of beliefs, traditions and doctrines, and all those other nitty-gritty stuff of our faith.

Two years ago, Evan and I, attended the Prepare the Way/Caminante Program offered by the Kino Institute which is under the teaching ministry of the Diocese of Phoenix. We shared classes with church employees, ministry heads and others who were just like us who just wanted to know more of our faith. Having undergone the program we have found so many treasures in our faith... and we desire to share them with you....

And now, we finally graduated after two years of Tuesday night attendance, readings and assignments. We pray to become more useful for God's glory for our community here in BLD-Phoenix. We pray to heed the Lord's call to *prepare the way*. As the song goes... *make ready your hearts, make ready your home, make ready the people of God.*

i am a pencil,
i am sharpened every now and then,
thru learning of mind, heart, spirit,
thru challenges of daily ministries,
i desire to be sharpened,
that i may be able to write,
clearly and legibly,
those who read may understand, learn and believe,
i desire the Writer to use me,
to write his thoughts,
his ways, his love,
though brief my life maybe.

To know more about the Kino Institute Theological Studies & Pastoral Ministry Formation Program please visit

www.kinoinstitute.org

<u>JULY BIRTHDAYS</u>	<u>JULY ANNIVERSARIES</u>
5-Harmon Dilema (ME 5)	14-Elmer & Thelma Alata (ME 6)
15-Mike Sandstedt (ME7)	18-Lito & Norma Caguioa (ME7)
15-Norma Caguioa (ME7)	18-Chris & Mary Ann Korte (ME3)
16-Becky Felipe (ME 1)	24-Pepe & Leonor Beronia (ME 1)
31-Grace Ibe (ME 6)	

CALLED TO PROTECT TRAINING FOR MINISTRIES



Called to Protect for Ministries, (previously referred to as Safety Environment Training) teaches pastors, directors of religious education, catechists, volunteers, and other adults in positions of trust with minors . This is one of 4 parts that applies to the BLD Community .

The Diocesan Policy and Procedure for the Protection of minors requires all clergy, employees, volunteers that directly serve minors, and minors to attend training on an annual basis. All other volunteers must attend training every other year.

BLD Phoenix made arrangements with St. Raphael Parish (5525 W. Acoma Rd. Glendale AZ 85306) to conduct this training for BLD members. All are invited to attend this session while all those directly handling minors in the community are required to complete this training.



WHAT: Called to Protect for Ministries

WHEN: July 9, 2008 (Wednesday) at 6:00 PM

WHERE: St. Raphael Parish Hall

A Shepherd's Spiritual Journey

"When one door closes, 2 doors open." Tito Rey and Tita Mary Ann (Conopio) are part of the foundation in which the Youth Ministry of BLD Phoenix was built on. They were not only discerned to be the Youth Ministry Coordinators but they were given the task in helping the youth in their spiritual growth and journey with the Lord.

"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to your mountain, "MOVE!" and it WILL move... and NOTHING will be impossible for YOU!" (Matthew 17:20)

Thanks to all their hard work, dedication, and faith in all of us...the youth would not be where it is today. Faithful servants they are, but they're even better people & better friends. Tito Rey is the type of person that when things seem to not be going your way and you're not feeling too chipper; he somehow can always find a way to make you laugh or smile. Tita Mary Ann is such a compassionate and supportive person, you can always turn to her if you had any questions. We had many good times, as one family, from the monthly reunions, to YE, to the YLSS, and of course our Praise & Worship on Fridays. They always made you feel welcomed and loved in the community.

We each have our own paths with the Lord and we are proud and thankful for the work that Tito Rey and Tita Mary Ann have given. We all know that that the journey, the walk with God, hasn't ended as that we each have our own paths to follow. We're happy & proud that they are the new shepherds of ME#8. We tell this to the new ME Class that you're very blessed in being able to have such fun, loving, and compassionate shepherds helping you in your walk with the Lord.

"When one chapter ends, another chapter is about to begin". Another chapter is about to begin for Tito Rey and Tita Mary Ann as well as for our newly discerned Youth Ministry Heads, Tito Elmer and Tita Thelma Alata. We welcome them and we look forward to walk this journey to become Christ's disciples with them.

We pray for you all and for our BLD Youth Ministry leaders that God blesses you always! To Tito Rey and Tita Mary Ann, thank you so much and you will never be forgotten! -Youth Ministry

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 complete the Called To Protect Training offered by local parishes. Please check the Diocese website for Schedule: <http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>
- ◆ IDLC Meeting on July 12 & 13 at St. Stephen's Renewal Center (Phoenix).

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.

Reflection Prayer:

Father God, we long for a deep and lasting communion with You and with each other; but we find that real change is difficult and elusive. We turn to You, Father, and yield ourselves to You. Give us Your grace so that at all times we may turn to the Holy Spirit, whose power can overcome every weakness and sinful nature in us. All these we pray, Father, that we may be worthy of finding restful peace in this life and eternal happiness in the after life. Amen!

JULY THEME AND PROMISE

Week#1 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Sense of Communion]

Theme: In the meekness and humility of Jesus, we shall find peace.

Promise: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11:28)

Week#2 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Fruitfulness]

Theme: In the meekness and humility of Jesus, we shall hear the Word of God and bear fruit.

Promise: "My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Is 55:11)

Week #3 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Righteousness]

Theme: In the meekness and humility of Jesus, we hope for the Kingdom of heaven.

Promise: "The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Mt 13:43)

Week #4 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Compassion]

Theme: In the meekness and humility of Jesus, we cultivate a wise & understanding heart.

Promise: "I give you a heart so wise and understanding." (Kings 3:12A)

www.BLDPhoenix.com

MESSAGE

Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community
Global Districts

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in BLD,

May the Peace, Joy and Love of Jesus Christ be always with us all!

As we celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community, we praise and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His faithfulness and love for the BLD Global Community. We rejoice, remembering our personal encounter with Jesus Christ in this Community.

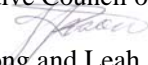


We remember Jesus Christ as the Rock Foundation of BLD. We remember our pledges to make Him our Lord and Savior; to love God and our neighbor; to obey His commands, to turn away from our sinful past, to continue with our own transformation; to foster unity within, to respect the authorities set before us, and to work for the greater Church. We remember the countless blessings so freely and graciously given to us.

As we look forward for more blessed years in BLD, we pray to the Lord to make us remember with our whole heart, mind, and spirit - that Jesus expects patient steadfastness in our communion with Him in prayer and in the Eucharist; our constant dying to self and carrying our cross; being righteous by living the Word of God; fostering unity with humble, compassionate, and forgiving service in community; sharing a life of simplicity and poverty with the least of our brethren. May we all have the inner joy and peace that living in accordance to God's Will brings.

A Blessed 23rd Anniversary to us all in the Name of Jesus Christ!

For the Executive Council of Servant Leaders,


Eliong and Leah Sison
Presiding Servant Leader
June 14, 2008

The BLD (Bukas-Loob sa Diyos) Youth Ministry

of Phoenix is holding it's 4th Youth Encounter Weekend
(for ages 14-20 y.o.)

Youth Encounter #4 is a live-in retreat and will be held on
July 25, Friday at 5:00 pm till Sunday July 27 at around 6:00 pm
at the **St. Stephen Retreat and Renewal Center**
2310 N 56th St., Phoenix AZ 85008

We pray for your openness and we look forward to have you there.
Please see available flyers for more details/check www.bldphoenix.com
God bless!

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of June 2008

Receipts	\$2,534.15
Disbursements	\$1,389.70
Surplus (Deficits)	\$1,144.45

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

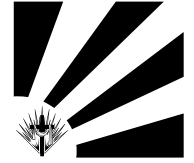
Thank you for your generosity!



BLD PHOENIX

Valley of the SON

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Issue 7 Insert

July 2008

Gearing Up for the Pauline Year

Dioceses Prepare for Jubilee of Apostle of the Gentiles

By Karna Swanson

NEW YORK, JUNE 27, 2008 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Maybe nothing can separate us from the love of God, but as the Year of St. Paul gets under way, many dioceses are taking advantage of an opportunity to draw people closer to it.

Benedict XVI will open the jubilee year marking the 2,000th anniversary of Paul's birth this Saturday in a ceremony at St. Paul Outside the Walls. The official end of the Pauline Year will be one year from Sunday.

In May, the Vatican announced that those who participate in Pauline events could obtain a plenary indulgence, the remission of all temporal punishment due for sins that have been forgiven.

For those in Rome, the Pope designated the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls as the place to obtain the indulgence, under the customary conditions.

The Pope added, however, that for those not in Rome, the indulgence can be obtained by participating in a "religious function or in a pious exercise held publicly in honor of the Apostle of the Gentiles."

Phoenix

"We celebrate the Year of St. Paul to deepen our conviction about truths of faith like this that are recorded by this great Apostle to the Gentiles and that undergird our hope," the bishop wrote in a letter on the Year of St. Paul, released last week. "During this year, our Holy Father invites us to strengthen our love for the word of God as a way to honor the Apostle who was unsurpassed in zeal for proclaiming the Gospel.

"He also invites us to pray and work for unity among all the baptized, recalling how St. Paul constantly pleaded for reconciliation among the early converts to the Christian faith."

Bishop Olmstead designated three Churches as places of pilgrimage in the diocese: St. Paul's Parish in Phoenix, Sts. Simon and Jude Cathedral and Sacred Heart Parish in Prescott.

He also established eight days when a Plenary Indulgence may be obtained by making a pilgrimage: vigil and solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 28-29), Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), Shipwreck of St. Paul (Feb. 10), Divine Mercy Sunday (April 19), solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 19), and vigil and solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 28-29, 2009).

"In the Year of St. Paul," urged Bishop Olmsted, "let us gladly join with our Holy Father and with fellow Christians around the world in seeking deeper conversion and holiness of life, in imitating the evangelizing zeal of St. Paul, and in loving Christ with an undivided heart."

Who is St. Paul?

St. Paul, the indefatigable Apostle of the Gentiles, was converted from Judaism on the road to Damascus. He remained some days in Damascus after his Baptism, and then went to Arabia, possibly for a year or two to prepare himself for his future missionary activity. Having returned to Damascus, he stayed there for a time, preaching in the synagogues that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. For this he incurred the hatred of the Jews and had to flee from the city. He then went to Jerusalem to see Peter and pay his homage to the head of the Church.

On his last missionary journey, he made Ephesus where he remained nearly three years, the center of his missionary activity. He laid plans also for another missionary journey, intending to leave Jerusalem for Rome and Spain. Persecutions by the Jews hindered him from accomplishing his purpose. After two years of imprisonment at Caesarea he finally reached Rome, where he was kept another two years in chains .



We gather, however, from the Pastoral Epistles and from tradition that at the end of the two years St. Paul was released from his Roman imprisonment, and then traveled to Spain, later to the East again, and then back to Rome, where he was imprisoned a second time and in the year 67, was beheaded.

St. Paul's untiring interest in and paternal affection for the churches established by him have given us fourteen canonical Epistles. It is, however, quite certain that he wrote other letters which are no longer extant. In his Epistles, St. Paul shows himself to be a profound religious thinker and he has had an enduring formative influence in the development of Christianity. The centuries only make more apparent his greatness of mind and spirit. His feast day is June 29th.



An **indulgence**, in Roman Catholic theology, is the full or partial remission (or reduction) of temporal punishment due, for sins which have already been forgiven. The indulgence is granted by the church after the sinner has confessed and received absolution. The indulgences draw on the storehouse of merit acquired by Jesus' sacrifice and the virtues and penances of the saints. They are granted for specific good works and prayers by those authorized by the Holy See.