

Month of July

WORD: The prophetic mission of Christ is to proclaim the Kingdom of the Father.

READINGS

- July 5 Ez 2:2-5, Ps 123:1-2,2, 3-4, 2 Cor 12:7-10, Mk 6:1-6
July 12 Am 7:12-15, Ps 85:9-114, Eph 1:3-14, Mk 6:7-13
July 19 Jer 23:1-6, Ps 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, Mt 6:30-34
July 26 2 Kg 4:42-44, Ps 145: 10-11, 15-18, Eph 4:1-6, Jn 6:1-15

DON MOEN IS COMING TO TOWN

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” (Eph 5:19)

Music, this beautiful language of sound, how does it move our lives? How is it able to inform our body and vitalize our being and allow us to partake of life as if in another reality? But music does all this in God’s unfathomable ways as in contemporary Christian music.

In praise of God and in appreciation of music, BLD Phoenix has invited Don Moen and company to come to town on October 24. Don Moen, highly regarded singer, song writer and producer of Christian music will share us his brand of music for a fund raising concert, “I Believe There Is More,” as soon as final engagement details are arranged.

We urge everyone who has a heart and a pair of ears to join us as we celebrate God in music. Love of music and a desire to better honor God are the only prerequisites you need to help this BLD Phoenix sponsored fund raiser that will support our prayer community’s ongoing evangelical, educational and pastoral activities. -THE DCS OF BLD PHOENIX

MONTHLY COUNSELS

July 5: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Perseverance)

Theme: We partake in Christ’s prophetic mission when we endure hardships, persecutions and constraints.

Promise: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9)

Reflection: The Lord knows us perfectly when in Ezekiel 2:4a, he describes us as “hard of face and obstinate of heart.” We are indeed a thorn in God’s flesh. In our disbelief and indifference, even today we ask the incredulous question, “Is he not the carpenter?” At crisis time, when we need him most, when our faith fails us, when love abandons us, we take offense at him, “I have believed in you. I have trusted you. Why did you fail me? Could you have not treated your own better?” Yet God remains himself, changeless, loving and generous despite our false preconditions on our faith and love. We lack St. Paul’s humility, “I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” It is at such times when we need him most, at the severe trials when we fail his trust. When we make of suffering a stumbling block and not an opportunity to cling on to faith, we fail the test. “My grace is sufficient for you.” Like Peter who denied him thrice, we must thrice pledge back our allegiance and love. Like Thomas who doubted that God has risen, we must proclaim the truth, “My Lord and my God.”

Prayer: Dear Jesus, let my weaknesses and failures open my arms wide to the possibility of hope, that your grace alone is sufficient for me. Amen.

Order: “...boast most gladly of..weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell in you.” (2 Cor 12:9b)

Direction: Trust in God. Persevere in trial. Endure hardship. Hang on to God’s love.

July 12: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Self Denial)

Theme: We partake in Christ’s prophetic mission when we forgo our personal comfort for the sake of the Gospel. Continued next page...

Youth Encounter #5 (YE 5)

August 7-9, 2009 (Fri-Sun)

Christian Youth Camp - Ponderosa

1400 Paradise Valley Rd, Prescott, AZ 86303

“I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth just as we were commanded by the Father.” (2 Jn 1:4)

The mission of the Youth Ministry is to evangelize, tend, form, empower, equip, and send out our young men and women so that they can become messengers of Christ’s Love to an often confused and lost segment of their peers and thus pave the way for their integration into mature Christian adults.

This is open to all youth ages 14-19. Please check out our website for more information and link to Registration Form.

Please submit registration by Aug 1, 2009

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Website: www.BLDPhoenix.com

Group E-mail: BLDPhoenix@yahoo.com

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**Promise:** *"The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and salvation, along the way of his steps."* (Ps 85: 13-14)

**Reflection:** God speaks to us in myriad and mysterious ways through success or failure, through rest or discomfort, through fear and doubt, through pessimism and trust, and through various people or events in our lives. *In accord with the favor of his will*, each of us from baptism on is destined to be prophet, priest and king. *"Go prophesy to my people."* Shepherd or dresser of sycamore, covenanted or committed BLD member, slow disciple or reluctant saint, genius or clown in the making, whatever our situation might be, we all have a mission in God's plan. Like the Twelve, we are sent *two by two* as couples if we are married, alone but paired with the Holy Spirit if we are single, to proclaim God's message like a prophet, to reveal *the hope that belongs* to our call. Anointed by God like a priest, *with every spiritual blessing...as he chose*, we exist for the praise of his glory. We go forth into our lives and *take nothing for the journey*. God's provision is enough. With God enthroned in our hearts, we are kings. What else could we need?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I thank you for reminding me that I need no one and nothing else if I have you. "Self" is my only possession and even this I willingly give up if only to have you. Amen.

**Order:** *"Go, prophesy to my people."* (Am 7:15b)

**Direction:** Take nothing in life but Jesus. Recognize that Jesus is Lord and savior. Count on the empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Repent and be saved.

### **July 19: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Compassion)**

**Theme:** We partake in Christ's prophetic mission when we seek and gather the lost.

**Promise:** *"I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing."* (Jer 23:4)

**Reflection:** Woe to the parent who fails his family in love and cannot keep it together. Woe to the son who strays away from the righteous path or the daughter who is tempted away from the light of goodness. Yet if the Lord is our shepherd, what is it that we want? What is it with the human condition that we alternate being far off and near to Christ? Where do we run for emotional shelter? Where are we to rest our head when we are morally tired and lost? Absent friends or others, where do we go? God himself tells us. *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."* What better place is there to be than in the company of God who seeks our company? If all we do is seek only what is bread and flesh forgetting that in God we have spirit, and peace and rest, then that maybe the sad beginning of the total collapse of our human purpose and meaning.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for being a triune God, a "social" God. Let me always mirror your innate wish for compassion and company, your desire for our commitment to help, to heal, to share and to gather all to yourself. Amen.

**Order:** *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."* (Mk 6:31)

**Direction:** Visit the Blessed Sacrament frequently. Bring a new friend each time. Can you not rest one hour with him who is pleased to give you the rest you seek? Give Jesus a chance to speak to you. Listen to him.

Counsels continued...

### **July 26: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Interdependence)**

**Theme:** We partake in Christ's prophetic mission when we are united in the bond of peace under one Spirit.

**Promise:** *"The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth."* (Ps 145:18)

**Reflection:** At the dinner table, always give thanks to the Lord for what blessings we have. Even in our want, the Lord himself says, *"There shall be some left over."* There is no other God like our God who feeds us and answers all our needs. Yet too, we must remind ourselves that we do not live by bread alone though some might think that life is just bread and circus. When we are united in a bond of peace with others, when we are willing to share even the little that we have with others, not just resources but our person and love and time, *the one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all* will provide what we need when we need it. Of course, God himself knows there are worldly things and pleasures to enjoy in life. Everything he created is good and he will not for one moment deny us what we really need. In prayer, God first draws us to himself as his family. Next, he draws us to each other as one family. In both steps, God invites us to honor the vertical and horizontal dimensions of all human relationships, our interdependence on one another. Where God is, there is prayer and celebration always worthy of a feast or a banquet.

**Prayer:** We are gathered to you dear Lord as your family, and to each other as one family. That image of you, my Lord, as prayer and party is easy to understand. We celebrate you, dear God and our life, always. Amen.

**Order:** *"Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."* (Jn 6: 12b)

**Direction:** Put away the old self. Receive your new life from the Lord and in the Eucharistic feast. Attend Mass often. Be obedient. Be not complaining. Always respond to God's invitation to his banquet.

### **Life in the Spirit Seminar #8**

BLD Phoenix held its 8th Life in the Spirit Seminar on June 20-21, 2009 at the Queen of Peace Parish Madonna Hall, in Mesa, AZ. The seminar was commenced with an Invocation Mass on Friday June 19. Msgr. Paul Schetelick of New Jersey was the spiritual director of the 2-day seminar. LSS facilitators comprised of both new and old home-grown sharers: Cecilia Andaya, Manny & May Siongco, Evan & Joie Pangilinan, Jonathan & Eunice Lureñana and Ramon & Ludy Cuasay. The exhortation for Baptism was led by Jess & Ning Laforteza. The community is delighted to witness the works of the Holy Spirit upon the LSS #8 graduates: Rock & Rosie Calvo, Nelson & Malou Reyes, Patricia Ybarra, Jong & Malie Gabriel, Jerome & Sharon Fernando, Rick Villaraza, Manny & Ruby Dizon, Tommy & Warie Rafael, Imelda Garcia, Ermina Berez, Gigi Whitby, Jimmy Sajonas, Ross & Noie Carballo and Rey Ansay.

Truly, the Lord works in ways we can not see nor fathom, He touches us and renews us by using this community to testify to His love and mercy. May we start and continue to desire to receive the Holy Spirit's gifts and use its fruits to live by and share to others. As yet another job for the Lord is done well, we are thankful to all the members of the community who rendered any of the following roles: shepherds, auxies and/or catchers.

## “Get up, pick up your mat and go home...”

You might be wondering what is the relevance of “Get up, pick up your mat and go home” with what I am about to say here...well, it’s the Gospel for today, July 02, 2009, the day I started to write this article.

Jesus heals. Jesus forgives. That’s the message of the Gospel. And it was the experience Joie and I had when we started writing our life stories. Yes, it is painful to remember and more so to write it on a piece of paper and I guess painful too when it is shared with others. Will a person ever willingly and openly share his/her ugly past without great hesitation? Well maybe a “yes” for some and but I believe a “no” for many. That’s what happened to us, with much hesitation or struggling and fighting to move away from the calling-we tried as much as we can; but you know what, God wanted it for us. He wants us to get fully healed and to share our lives with others. For his glory, God gave the avenue for us to know, feel, and grasp his forgiveness and healing power. He forgave our sins, He removed the bitterness from our hearts. He made known to us that the thoughts we carry in our minds as the causes of our sins are not true. He healed our wounded souls. He touched our inner hearts. He made us clean before Him and others. We are forgiven and at the same time healed. “Get up. Pickup your mat. You are forgiven,” That was the message God gave me today in realization of the wondrous LSS we had.

Indeed, LSS#8 was truly a memorable experience for us. We not only felt God’s love but we also felt the love of our brothers and sisters in BLD. With their support, encouragement, and uplifting words, sharing in the LSS gave us the confidence that we did it for God’s glory and honor. It was not easy BUT God provided all that we needed. If all depended only on our own resources, we would not have been able to fulfill any single task. I remember when I was doing my sharing, that I stopped and could not go on as I felt anew the pain in my heart that prevented me from going on, but, the Holy Spirit empowered me to pray silently, “Lord, help me go through this”. Only at that time was I able to continue sharing and I knew and felt that God removed the pain in my heart and replaced it with his awesome love! This I know is certain, that when God calls you to do a task for Him, He will send you the Holy Spirit to empower you to complete the task. He will be there at the moment you are starting it. He will be there at the moment you are about to do it. He will be there at the moment you are actually doing it and long afterward. God is always there.

So when God calls us we should never be afraid to stand up and pick up our mat. By now, we ought to know that God’s grace, blessing, love, forgiveness, and healing are ever ours for the asking. Jesus is always on our side.

*Prayer: God, you are good. You have always been very good. We thank you for the graces you always shower on us. Empower us that we may always be ready to stand up, pick up our mat and be ever willing to give glory and praise to your magnificent name. We thank you. We love you. We pray to you, Father through your Son Jesus, who is our Lord and Savior. Amen. Your son and daughter, E&J.*

## Experience of a Lifetime

For the past 7 weeks, I had been busy studying to fully appreciate my continued relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and God the Father. I was anxious for what I might experience at the LSS. As I walked into the auditorium, I felt an increase in body warmth in God’s presence and also tingling sensations in my legs which occur when I felt oppressed. I began silently to pray the rosary and say my shepherd’s chant of “Jesus, my Jesus” repeatedly. This stopped the tingling. The feeling of warmth returned. One of the elders of the community approached me and told me to go to the confessional to meet Msgr. Schetelick so I did. Monsignor said that he had heard about my healing process, and he asked me to touch many people physically and to share my healing experience with them giving all the glory to God. I returned to our gathering and I sat down with the other lambs. I found out that we all had anxieties that night. We took comfort in knowing that we shared the same feelings including our great desire to be in God’s presence and know that we are growing closer to Him. Throughout the mass we comforted one another and our anxieties lessened. After our new teaching, we understood much better our weaknesses and sinfulness and realized that the only way we can be saved was to surrender our whole being to God. I felt that the weight of my anxieties was lifted from my body that Friday night. I went home and prayed and slept the most peaceful sleep in years.

Saturday morning in the seminar, we heard the sharers and their reflections and Monsignor’s commentaries that brought light in my life that day. I realized that I was not alone and that if I surrendered to God I would be forgiven and renewed. The sharings touched me in so many ways as they brought many memories in my life experiences which gave me hope that God was not a punishing God but a forgiving and loving God. I shed so many tears that I felt cleansed by the end of the day. During my baptism in the Spirit, as I brought my focus to Jesus, I again felt the tingling sensations in my legs. I knew it to be the working of the evil one trying to deter me from focusing on Jesus. I continued to pray and started my chant to Jesus. The next thing I knew I felt warm and I could not feel my feet on the floor. I felt that somebody grabbed hold of me. I saw a white form that looked like a robe with rays coming out of the center of its chest. I felt such peace and the next thing I remember was waking up. I did not want to lose sight of that figure. I also did not want to leave the place that night but when I went to sleep, I tried to relive that feeling.

Sunday came and I felt more peace. I could still feel the love of God surrounding me. I felt I was walking on a cloud and I fell in love with Jesus. I was not afraid anymore. Now I knew that I had Jesus in my life. He will be my companion. He is someone I can depend on in love, counseling and comfort. He is someone I can talk to because I have felt His love for me. I am not afraid of being alone anymore. I will treasure this experience and will not forget it for as long as I live. May I be able to share it with many others, and more importantly, may I be able to bring the love of Jesus to others. I give glory to His name. Amen. Thank you Jesus! PY

BIRTHDAYS	
5 - Harmon Dilema (ME 5)	16 - Becky Felipe (ME 1)
15 - Mike Sandstedt (ME7)	28 - Willa Villanueva (ME8)
15 - Norma Caguioa (ME7)	31 - Grace Ibe (ME 6)
21 - Rudy Jaravata (ME8)	

ANNIVERSARIES	
14 - Elmer & Thelma Alata (ME 6)	
18 - Chris & Mary Ann Korte (ME3)	
18 - Lito & Norma Caguioa (ME7)	
24 - Pepe & Leonor Beronia (ME 1)	
31 - Mario & Normie Castillo (ME 5)	



### FACTS OF OUR FAITH

The life of St. Benedict (July 11) is told rather simply yet his example and writings are filled with wisdom for all ages, including the present. Benedict was born in Nursia, Italy, around the year 480, and was the son of a noble family. As a youth, he went off to Rome to study. At that time, Rome was showing signs of moral and political decay. Turning away from such corruption, Benedict discontinued his studies, withdrew from Rome and went into solitude.

For three years Benedict remained in solitude in a cave. Through a life of fasting and prayer, he sought to grow closer to God. Being such a holy person, the local people would seek him out. They desired that he pass on the message of Christ to them during a time in history that was greatly in need of the Gospel.

In the year 529, after having lived these years as a monk, Benedict established a monastic foundation where men, who wanted to live a life in common and together seek out the Lord, could come to dwell. This new "school of the Lord" came to rest on a hill near Cassino in Italy.

Hence, the monastery came to be known as Monte Cassino. There, Benedict established his community and wrote a rule, that is, a guide to be followed in the daily lives of his monks. Benedict guided the community as the father, also known as the abbot, until his death around the year 547.

Since this humble beginning of the Benedictine monks, that is, those vowing to live their lives under the Rule of St. Benedict, the religious order has spread throughout the world down to the present day. From Monte Cassino many other Benedictine communities have been established.

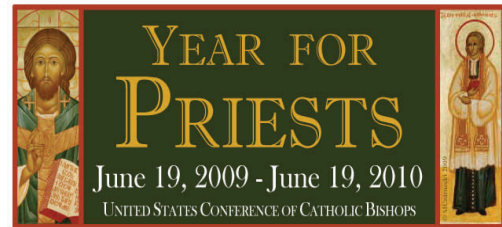
St. Benedict's principle revolved around two things, *ora et labora* - work and prayer!

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS	
Cash flow as of June 2009	
<i>Receipts</i>	\$4,893.76
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$1,183.99
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$3,709.77

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

**July Teachings Schedule**  
Teaching Topics:  
***World and the Flesh; Body and Blood of Christ***  
For All Encounter and LSS Graduates (Adults)  
When: **July 26, 2009** at 12noon to 4PM  
Where: VHC 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."  
(Ephesians 4:11-14)*



"The eternal paradox of the priest: He has the contraries within himself. He reconciles, at the price of his life, fidelity to God and fidelity to man. He has the air of poverty and powerlessness. He does not have the political means, financial resources, or weapons, which others use to conquer the earth. His power is to be disarmed and to be able to do all things in Him Who gives him strength." -Cardinal Emmanuel Suhard

**Faith and Finances**

What does the Bible say about saving? Consider the story of Joseph and Pharaoh in Genesis chapter forty-one, and the parable of the abundant farmer in Luke chapter twelve. Joseph is assigned governor after interpreting Pharaoh's dream. Egypt is to have seven years of plenty to be followed by seven years of famine. What does Joseph do? He sets aside twenty percent of the produce during the seven years of plenty so the people will have adequate food during the time of famine.

What about the farmer in Luke's Gospel? He has an abundant crop that overwhelms his storage capacity. He builds another barn to store the excess. So far, that sounds a lot like Joseph, doesn't it? Yet, the Lord says, "You fool, this night your soul is required of you. Then whose will all of this be?" To understand why the Lord responded so harshly to the farmer, we need to go beyond his actions, which after all, were basically the same as Joseph's. What was different was his intent. Joseph set aside reserves for appropriate future needs. The farmer planned to kick back and take it easy. He hoarded.

The Lord wants us to save, but he wants us to do so with the attitude of Joseph, not the farmer. Assess the responsibilities the Lord has entrusted to you, and anticipate the resources you'll need to fulfill those responsibilities. Start with your emergency and rainy day funds, then save for future education and retirement expenses. God loves you.† -Veritas Financial Ministries

**Please share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer thru an article (350 words max). Please E-mail to [wordministry@bldphoenix.com](mailto:wordministry@bldphoenix.com).**

*"We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem..."*  
Acts 10:39