

## BLD SCHEDULE

Month of October 2009

Day	Start	End	Activity	Venue
2 Fri	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	Eucharistic Celebration	OLA Church
9 Fri	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
11 Sun			Mission -Youth Without Shelter Thanks-giving Meal	
14 Wed	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	Mission Assembly	OLA Basement
16 Fri	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
23 Fri	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church
23 -25			St Margaret Mary LSS #2	
24 Sat			Fall Dance	Humberwood CC
25 Sun	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Mission—Visitation	
27 Tues	11:45	1:15 pm	Mission—Serve Lunch	Good Shepherd Centre
30 Fri	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	Corporate Praise and Worship	OLA Church

## Toronto Teaching Schedule

For a complete and up to date Teaching Schedule, visit ~ [www.bldtoronto.com](http://www.bldtoronto.com)

### Pope's prayer intentions for October 2009

The Holy Father's general intention is: "That Sunday may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist."

The Pope's missionary intention is: "That the entire People of God, to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity."



[www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)

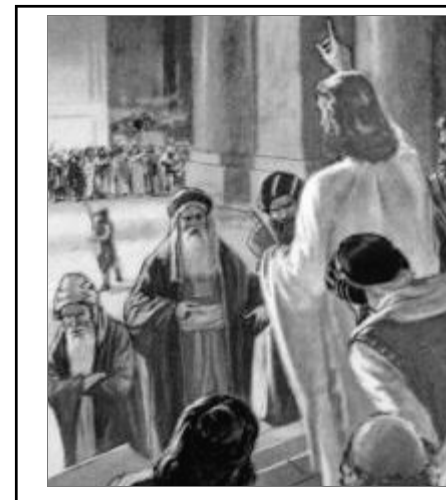


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October 2, 2009

**BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS • OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD**  
Toronto District

**Counsel for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**



### ORDER:

What God has joined together, let no one separate

### REFLECTION:

From the beginning of time, the Lord God has included in His Divine Plan for the man that He had just created to have a life-long partner. Therefore **"a man shall leave his father and mother.... and the two shall become one flesh."** Each conjugal union is willed by God. However, in the Gospel reading, the Pharisees tested Jesus' knowledge of the Mosaic law by asking him the legality of the case for a man divorcing his wife. In his reply, Jesus reminded them of their irreverence to God's will. Because of their hardness of heart, Moses was forced to issue a certificate of divorce. Jesus warned them that **"whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."** The Gos-

*(Reflection Continued on page 2)*

### THEME:

We are faithful to Christ when we defend the sacredness of our vocation.

### WORD:

Gn 2: 18-24; Ps 128: 1- 6 ; Heb 2: 9 -11; Mk 10: 2 -16

(Continued from page 1)

pel has two messages: first the unity of marriage and secondly, the innocence of children. The common thread between the two is in the way we show our full trust in God's will. In the sacrament of matrimony, we must respect it as a union of a man and a woman as joined by God and therefore, no one can separate it. Permanence in marriage has been the Divine intent from the beginning. The Lord has promised us that those who are reverent to God will receive His blessings with satisfaction and prosperity in his/her family. If we can only be as trusting and dependent as children, then we will not be as anxious like the Pharisees in Jesus' time.

**"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them: for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."** Jesus said these because children came near Him with no reservations and expected nothing but His friendship and love. They trusted Him with everything and with pure innocence and honesty, told Him of their needs. He loved the children just as He loved us. Jesus took a human body, suffered in the Cross and tasted death for you and me. In doing so, He made Himself perfect and He glorified His Father. At the same time, He called us as His brothers and sisters, that we are all consecrated to a common Father, our God the Father. Such was and still is, His love for all of us. So how can we show our love for Him in return?

This is the basic consideration of our theme for the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – **"We are faithful to Christ when we defend the sacredness of our vocation."** (Fidelity). Our faithfulness to our own marriage vows is tantamount to our own faithfulness to Christ. From our Marriage Encounter programs, we learned that we need to place Jesus at the center of our marriage. For Jesus Christ is the only third party in a marriage that can make it work. Love is the fulfillment of the Law of God. If we subject ourselves to God's law concerning marriage, then in turn we are showing our love for the Lord by obeying His will.

To know love, we have to open our hearts to Jesus. To show love, we have to open our hearts to others. Jesus expects nothing less from us. We need to be like the children in the gospel, who gave Jesus their unconditional and trusting love, which Jesus reciprocated. **"Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways"**. May we be guided in our faith that for Jesus to show us His love for us, He died for us. Therefore, in order for us to show our love for Jesus, we all must live for Him.

**DIRECTION:**

- ✦ Fear the Lord and walk in His ways.
- ✦ Receive the Kingdom of God as a little child

**GOD'S PROMISE:**

"Blessed are you who fear the Lord who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork, blessed shall you be, and favored." (Ps 128:1-2)

Kingdom of God. In the face of defeat, we are likely to become discouraged and to give up. But by God's grace as we continue to seek and believe in Him, we will win the prize. This is the theme for the last week of the month of October. Through all the trials and difficulties that we encounter as we grow in community, we need to be persistent in our faith, just like the blind man Bartimaeus. He was reaching out to Jesus, but he was rebuked by the people. He persisted, hanging on to his hope. And amidst what must have been a lot of noise and confusion among the crowds following our Lord, **"Jesus told him, 'Go your way, your faith has saved you.'"** (Mark 10:52). As committed and covenanted disciples of BLD, this is the kind of faith we need to have.

Let us live out the values of fidelity, detachment, servanthood and perseverance, especially during this month of October to affirm our commitment to our community and our faithfulness to Jesus.



**SO YOU THINK BLD CAN DANCE?**

Sponsored by ME Class # 29

October 24, 2009  
Humberwood Community Centre  
Cost: \$20.00

Come one, come all and have fun. Raffle & Door Prizes, Great Food, Ballroom Dance Exhibition plus a Live Band. Please see Val or Lina Ayroso or any ME29 member at the OLA basement before and after the prayer meeting for tickets.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND # 31**



To all our brothers and sisters in Christ,

Marriage Encounter Weekend #31, which will be held on Nov. 13–15, 2009 at Mt. Mary Retreat Center in Ancaster, Ont. is a special weekend dedicated for couples who may happen to be your family members, relatives, co-workers or friends, and with whom you want to impart a lasting memory of being together in a weekend totally designed to reveal God's wonderful plan for their marriage.

This weekend is truly fast approaching and we want to encourage everyone, especially those who have prospective candidates, not to waste time in obtaining and returning their completed application forms, as there are limited number of candidates that can be accepted.

Thank you for your cooperation and may God bless us all.

Marriage and Family Life Apostolate

Centuries later, Jesus reaffirmed the sacred and permanent nature of the marital bond, *“What therefore God has united let no man separate or divide”* (Mark 10:9, Amplified). The message is very clear. As covenanted and committed members of the community, we need to abide by God’s word and keep this holy covenant inviolable. Keeping a marriage together is no mean feat in this world where divorce, separation, same sex marriage, and every sort of disordered relationships are prevalent. But we need to obey knowing that to follow Christ means to take up His cross, *“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.”* (Mark 8:24).

**2<sup>nd</sup> week: Detachment**

This leads us to the readings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week when we are asked to be faithful disciples of Christ by renouncing our worldliness. In the book of Mark, the word of God declares, *“Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”* (Mark 10:21). As we look at the abundant life of people around us, we consider bounteous riches to be God’s blessing. Ironically, in this parable of Mark, wealth becomes an obstacle and a pitfall for anyone desirous of going to heaven. *“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”* (Mark 8:25). How many of us are willing to give up our worldly possessions and reduce ourselves to the ranks of the poor? This is indeed a tall order. But faithfulness to Jesus means detachment from material treasures and living a life of renunciation. Our community offers opportunities to reach out to the deprived through our out-reaches such as the BLD GK program. Do we share our fortunes with the needy, or are we like the rich young man who went away sad, for he had many possessions.

**3<sup>rd</sup> week: Servant hood**

One’s faithfulness to servanthood to Jesus is also made manifest through shepherding, praying, teaching, evangelizing, healing, consoling, etc., all of which make our theme for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. As followers of Christ, we give of our time, talent and treasure (the 3Ts), in an act of self-denial and sacrifice. Discipleship means following the footsteps of Jesus who came to serve and not to be served. *“Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.”* (Mark 10:43-44). Do we respond freely to the call of pouring ourselves out for others, so that we may be filled with Christ? Are we always ready and willing to serve regardless of whether or not we are given due recognition?

**4<sup>th</sup> week: Perseverance**

The journey of discipleship is long and arduous and as followers of Christ, we are bound to slip and fall along the way. By our own efforts, it is impossible for us to reach our goal of entering the

***from the* : Executive Council of Servant Leaders**

September 29, 2009

To: Our BLD Members - BLD Global Community  
Thru: District Servant Leaders  
Shepherds of District Clusters  
District Council of Stewards  
Interim DCS  
Cc: Archbishop Angel Lagdameo

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the BLD Global Community

The devastation brought by Typhoon Ondoy over the weekend in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces was widespread, severely affecting both properties and lives of our countrymen. There is continuing relief to be done, but most especially rehabilitation work to restore normalcy and rebuilding of the lives of victims.

As we continue praying for our suffering brethren, we in the ECSL are likewise raising funds to help our distraught countrymen and are therefore appealing for your donations from the generosity of your hearts. We suggest that your District conduct a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection at this week’s worship for this purpose and/or make an appeal for personal donations from members.

Donations will be given through the suffragan Dioceses in Metro Manila (Antipolo, Pasig, Cubao, Novaliches, Parañaque, etc.) where areas severely hit by the typhoon and flooding are located.

You may send your donations to the ECSL through the BLD Foundation, Inc

“All who call upon me I will answer; I will be with them in distress...” (Psalms 91:15). Let us lift our prayers and intercession to the Lord to help and secure our brothers and sisters who are presently in distress. Let us also pray for those who have died that the Lord grant them eternal peace and happiness in His presence.

Thank you for responding to this appeal.

God bless,

The Executive Council of Servant Leaders  
Eliang and Leah Sison, Presiding Servant Leaders

## *Bukás Loób sa Diyós Covenant Community*

### **WORD, THEMES & PROMISES**

#### **FOR OCTOBER 2009**

#### **READINGS**

- ✦ October 11 Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30
- ✦ October 18 Is 53:10-11; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45
- ✦ October 25 Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

**WORD** Commitment to the community is faithfulness to Christ

**ORDER** *"What therefore God has united let no man separate or divide."* (Mark 10:9, Amplified)

#### **PROPHECIES:**

- ✦ Persevere in your commitment, for it is purity of relationship that pleases Me!

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- ✦ Intensify your prayer life and your daily reflection of the Word, and always reconcile with God through the sacraments

#### **THEMES AND PROMISES**

Week#2 (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

[Detachment]

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we renounce our worldliness and follow His word.

Promise: *"All things are possible for God."* (Mark 10:27b)

*"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart."* (Ps 90:12)

Week #3 (29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

[Servanthood]

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we render unselfish service to community.

Promise: *"If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him."* (Is 53:10)

Week #4 (30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

[Perseverance]

Theme: We are faithful to Christ when we are persistent in our faith.

Promise: *"Go your way; your faith has saved you."* (Mk 10:52)

## **Reflection for October 2009**

**Word:** Commitment to the community is faithfulness to Christ.

**Order:** *"What therefore God has united let no man separate or divide."* (Mark 10:9, Amplified)

#### **Reflection:**

The Community Word for the month of October 2009 revolves around our commitment to the community, and inevitably, our faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Our readings for the four succeeding Sundays of the month reflect how we are able to translate this faithfulness in our own life situations as we go about serving Him.

We begin with an excerpt from a sharing of one of our leaders in Community:

"It's hard to believe that we have lasted for all of sixteen years. For a married couple whose main purpose for attending the Marriage Encounter (M.E.) weekend was to put an end to the constant nagging by family members to join the Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD) Covenant Community, it is simply amazing how we have stayed on. The M.E. was quickly followed by an LSS weekend, to give in to the relentless prodding of our M.E. class shepherds. And then came the Family Encounter (F.E.) weekend, wanting to give our children a better understanding of community service and hoping to lessen their constant protests to our intensifying preoccupation with community work. Before long we found ourselves in a leadership position and we knew in our hearts that there was no turning back."

Indeed, serving the Lord has become a lifetime commitment. There seems to be an invisible hand that leads one to a life of total commitment to the community. This is an all too familiar story for many covenanted members of BLD. We wake up one morning realizing that by God's grace, we don't know any life other than being servants of the Lord. It's a calling, a vocation. ***"They that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful."*** (Rev 17:14)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> week: Fidelity**

In our journey, we have all been destined to pursue different vocations according to God's divine plan. Some are living life as singles, some as solo parents, and some as married couples. God's Word on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday focuses on the vocations of husbands and wives, giving paramount importance to their fidelity to one another. From the beginning of time in the book of Genesis, the word of God declares: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh" (Gen 2:24). This paints a vivid image of the strength of the bond between man and wife, depicted as one flesh the moment they make their marriage vows. It is difficult to visualize what would happen when one's flesh is torn apart. Our Creator himself consecrates the sacrament of marriage, signifying a permanent union between couples who, therefore, cannot be separated by man.